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FBIS-NES-89-006 CONTENTS *10 January 1989*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 January Middle East and South Asia Review ... 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

‘Text’ of ‘Arafat News Conference in Amman *[Amman AL-RA’Y 9 Jan]* ... 3
Qaddumi, Netherlands Official Meet in Tunis *[AFP]* ... 4
‘Abdallah Hurani on Palestinian-U.S. Dialogue *[WAKH]* ... 5
Al-Natshah Rejects Formation of Popular Army *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 8 Jan]* ... 5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Paper Praises Call for U.S. ‘Restraint’ *[MENA]* ... 7
Columnist Decries U.S. ‘Aggression’ on Libya *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 7 Jan]* ... 7
‘Abd al-Majid Addresses Paris Conference *[MENA]* ... 7
Terms for Mubarak Visit to Israel Outlined *[AL-SHA’B 3 Jan]* ... 9
Iraq’s Ramadan Concludes Visit, Departs 9 Jan *[MENA]* ... 9
Trade Protocol for 1989 Signed With USSR *[MENA]* ... 9
  Soviet Delegation Departs *[MENA]* ... 9
Soviet AAPSO Delegation Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* ... 10
Columnist on Soviet, Israeli Demands on Press *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 7 Jan]* ... 10
PLO Delegation Arrives for Talks 9 Jan *[MENA]* ... 10
Libya Agrees To Settle Workers’ Back Pay *[Cairo Radio]* ... 11
Death Penalty Requested in Major Drug Case *[MENA]* ... 11

Libya

JANA Clarifies Details on Al-Rabitah ... 11
Basic People’s Congresses March to Al-Rabitah *[JANA]* ... 12
JANA Arab Affairs Editor Salutes Arab Stance ... 12
Thai Workers Said Spotted at Al-Rabitah Factory *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 10 Jan]* ... 12
Cypriot House President Visits Al-Rabitah *[Tripoli Radio]* ... 13
Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed by DER SPIEGEL *[Hamburg 9 Jan]* ... 14
‘Concern’ Expressed Over Gulf Situation *[Tripoli Radio]* ... 14
PLO’s Muragha Departs Tripoli After Visit *[JANA]* ... 15
Opposition Front Denies Training Antiregime Force *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jan]* ... 15

Sudan

Government To Continue Until Talks Conclude *[Omdurman Radio]* ... 15
Military Chief Warns Troops Against Coup Attempts *[Omdurman Radio]* ... 15
Red Cross To Airlift Food to Malakal 6 Jan *[SUNA]* ... 16

Western Sahara

Polisario Issues Statement on Talks With Morocco *[AFP]* ... 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Defense Minister: MiG Downings ‘Unjustifiable’ *[ARAB TIMES 8 Jan]* ... 17

PDRY

Muhsin Receives PLO's Salah Khalaf *[Aden Radio]* 17
  Al-'Attas Receives Khalaf *[Aden Radio]* 18

Saudi Arabia

Report of Payment to Syrian President Denied *[SPA]* 18

Yemen Arab Republic

'Arafat Arrives To Discuss Palestinian Affairs *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
  Confers With President Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
PLO's Salah Khalaf Arrives; Meets President *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
  Makes Statement, Departs *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Reportage on Visit by UK's Sir Geoffrey Howe 20
  Arrives for Visit 8 Jan *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
  Attends Foreign Ministry Talks *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
  Confers With President Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
  Talks With Al-Iryani *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
  Makes Statement, Leaves 21

IRAQ

Ramadan Returns From Visit to Egypt 9 Jan *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
  Makes Statement on Talks *[INA]* 22
GDR Official Arrives on Visit 9 Jan *[INA]* 22
New Labor Minister, Governor Sworn In *[Baghdad Radio]* 22

ISRAEL

Peace Plan Presented to Shultz, Shevardnadze *[THE NATION 10 Jan]* 23
  Shamir on Peace Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
  AL-ITTIHAD on Peace Plan *[WAKH]* 23
Soviet Message Urges 'Gesture Toward Palestinians' *[MA'ARIV 9 Jan]* 24
'Wide-Ranging' Accord, Ties With Hungary Foreseen *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Shamir Meets European Parliament's Lord Plumb *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
  Urges Weapons Ban *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
  Rabin Scolds European Delegates *[Tel Aviv IDF Radio]* 25
Arens Continues Meetings With Officials in Paris 25
  Meets With France's Dumas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
  To Meet With Mitterrand *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
  Discusses Chemical Weapons *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
  Meets Rocard, Turkish Minister *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shamir Comments on 'Deterring' Libya *[MA'ARIV 8 Jan]* 26
Left-Wing Knesset Members Leave for Paris *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Rabin, Senator on Strategic Cooperation, Mideast *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
'Counterproductive' Howe Appeals Criticized *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Jan]* 26
Arens Sends Protest to Egypt Over Editorial *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Jan]* 27
Official Says Egypt Can Direct Newspapers *[Jerusalem International]* 27
Rabin Renewing Contacts With Non-PLO Arabs *[HA'ARETZ 9 Jan]* 27
IDF Kills 8 'Terrorists' in Security Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
IDF Cracks Down on Stonethrowers in Territories *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Jan]* 28
  Forum To Fight Stonethrowing *[DAVAR 8 Jan]* 28
Cabinet Discusses Security, Unrest Issues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Shomron: PLO-Controlled Groups Inactive *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
West Bankers 'Suffering' From Jordanian Measures *[Jerusalem International]* 29
Demonstrators Riot at Megido Prison 9 Jan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 29
  Official Stabbed in Hospital *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
  Bomb Explodes Near IDF Patrol *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
  Further on 8 Jan Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 9 Jan]* 30
  Firebombs in Jerusalem, W. Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

  - 4 Wounded; Strike Continues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
  - 15 Wounded; Schools To Reopen *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
  - Murder, Stonings Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
  - West Bank Teacher Stabbed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Jan]* 31
- No Casualties in Firebombing of Bus *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
- Gen Biran Appointed IDF Quartermaster General *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
- Significance of 'Arafat Visit to Jordan Viewed *[AL-SHA'B 8 Jan]* 32

JORDAN

- U.S. Congressional Delegation Visits Amman 33
  - Received by King Husayn *[PETRA-JNA]* 33
  - Received by Prime Minister *[PETRA-JNA]* 33
  - Meet With Senate President *[Amman Radio]* 33
  - Meet With Chief of Staff *[Amman Radio]* 34
- Al-Rifa'i Receives Two U.S. Senators 9 Jan *[Amman Radio]* 34

LEBANON

- Shams al-Din on Iran Visit, Beirut Fighting *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 7 Jan]* 35
- Iranian Envoy Arrives To Discuss Shi'ite Clash *[RFL]* 35
- Violent Clashes Continue Between Amal, Hizballah 35
  - 50 Dead, 150 Injured *[VOM]* 35
  - Amal To 'Wipe Out' Hizballah *[RFL]* 36
  - Al-Tufayli Rejects Surrender *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
- Al-Huss Dispute With Junblatt Reported *[London AL-MAJALLAH 4-10 Jan]* 37
- VOL Reports PSP-Fatah Agreement on Deployment 37
- PSP's Junblatt Returns Churches to Maronites *[AFP]* 37
- Soviet Embassy Guards Attacked; 3 Syrians Killed *[RFL]* 38
- 2 Attacks on Syrian Posts in Tripoli Claimed *[RFL]* 38

SYRIA

- Diplomatic Relations Restored With Morocco *[Damascus Radio]* 39
- Al-Shar' Addresses Chemical Weapons Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 39
  - Hopes for Conference Examined *[Damascus Radio]* 39
- U.S. Senators, Delegation Pay Visit to Syria 40
  - Khaddam Receives Specter *[Damascus Radio]* 40
  - Al-Asad Receives Delegations *[Damascus Radio]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Najibullah Assesses Results of Vorontsov Talks *[Kabul Radio]* 41
- Najibullah Sends Condolences on Hirohito Death *[BAKHTAR]* 42
- Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Libyan Incident *[BAKHTAR]* 42
- Foreign Minister Returns From Paris Conference *[Kabul Radio]* 42
- Kawiani Returns From New Delhi Meeting *[Kabul Radio]* 43
- New Paktia Governor Assumes Office *[Kabul Radio]* 43
- Mujahidin Seize Gowshtah, Down Helicopter *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
- Armed Forces Operations in Provinces Detailed *[Kabul Radio]* 43
- Violation Notices Submitted to UN Mission 44
  - Note No 173 *[BAKHTAR]* 44
  - Notes Nos 174, 175 *[BAKHTAR]* 44
  - Note No 176 *[BAKHTAR]* 44
  - Note No 177 *[Kabul Radio]* 44

Bangladesh

- 'Deep Concern' Voiced Over Libyan Plane Downing *[Dhaka International]* 44
- 'Anti-Fundamentalist' Strike Grips Chittagong *[AFP]* 45

India

Annual Exercises on Pakistan Border Cancelled *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 30 Dec]* 45
Gandhi Comments on Visits to China, Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 45
    Visit 'Real Breakthrough' *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Editorial Urges Caution in Dealing With China *[INDIAN EXPRESS 24 Dec]* 46
PATRIOT Assesses Gandhi Visit to China *[24 Dec]* 47
U.S. Downing of Libyan Jets Called 'Serious' Act *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Maltese Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Delhi Power Failure Affects Radio, TV Broadcasts *[Delhi Radio]* 48
    Electricity Supply Restored *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Curfew Imposed in Guntur District Towns *[Delhi Radio]* 48
    Curfew Lifted 10 Jan *[Delhi Radio]* 48

Iran

Velayati Returns From Paris Conference *[IRNA]* 49
Velayati Comments on Amal-Hizballah Fighting *[Radio Free Lebanon]* 49
'Critical' Situation in Southern Lebanon Noted *[Tehran International]* 49
Besharati Leaves for Syria To Help Mediate *[IRNA]* 50
Visit to Gulf States by UK's Howe Examined *[Tehran Radio]* 50
UK Says Hostages Block Improved Relations *[IRNA]* 51
Ambassador to PRC Briefs President Khamene'i *[IRNA]* 51
China Prepared To Buy Oil, Build Paper Plant *[IRNA]* 51
Positive Response Urged Toward New USSR Trends *[IRNA]* 51
Khamene'i Sends Message to Tanzania's Mwinyi *[IRNA]* 52
Nepalese Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran *[Kathmandu International]* 52
    Meets With Khamene'i *[IRNA]* 52
    Holds Talks With Musavi *[IRNA]* 52
Musavi-Ardabili on Insurgents' Funds, Smugglers *[Tehran Radio]* 53
109 Drug Traffickers Arrested in Khorasan *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Border Villages To Be Moved 'Deep' Into Country *[Tehran TV]* 53
Cabinet Appoints Governor of Lorestan Province *[Tehran Radio]* 54
18 Political Groups Seek Formal Recognition *[IRNA]* 54
Prime Minister's Adviser on Reconstruction *[IRNA]* 55
SAIRI To Announce New 'Resistance Charter' *[Tehran TV]* 55
SAIRI Denounces U.S. 'Aggression' on Libya *[IRNA]* 55
Addition to Delegation, Gorbachev Meeting 55

Maldives

President Gayoom Appoints Larger Cabinet *[AFP]* 56

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Accepts Invitation To Visit Iran *[Islamabad International]* 56
Ishaq Khan Receives Message From Iraq's Saddam *[Islamabad International]* 56
Bhutto Discusses Relations With India *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Spokesman Denies Bhutto-Gandhi 'Secret Pact' *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Commentary on 'Success' of Gandhi-Bhutto Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Editorial Views Gandhi Visit to PRC *[DAWN 25 Dec]* 57
Soviet Ambassador Speaks on Trade Ties *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Bhutto Presides Over Federal Cabinet Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Benazir Bhutto Leaves for Saudi Arabia 10 Jan *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Court Reserves Opinion on Baluchistan Case *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Sri Lanka

2d Indian Unit Ready To Depart; LTTE Ambush *[Delhi Radio]* 59
    Another Battalion Departs *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Editorial Views Gandhi Rapprochement With PRC *[SUN 27 Dec]* 59

10 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1001134789 [Editorial Report]

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Threat

If the United States destroys the factory in Al-Rabitah, Libyans should "destroy anything American," Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television.

Chemical Weapons Conference

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens informed journalists in Paris that Israel will respond positively to any international convention that obliges all countries to make public their arsenals of chemical weapons (CW), Jerusalem radio reported.

He said Israel has taken "all the necessary steps" to foil a CW attack. In his speech to the conference, Arens stressed Israel's "special sensitivity" to the use of CW, IDF radio noted. He contended that Libya has used CW in Chad and that Syria has the potential to engage in chemical warfare.

On the Arab side, Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi affirmed that Libya is ready to participate in any international effort to ban the "creation, production, development, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and other mass destruction weapons," according to JANA.

Drawing attention to Israel's "huge arsenal" of nuclear and chemical weapons, the Libyan minister claimed that Moshe Arens did not hide Israel's "hostile intentions against Arab countries" in his speech to the conference.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told the conference that the United States has turned "a blind eye" to Israel's acquisition of nuclear and chemical weapons, Damascus radio reported.

Contending that Israel's "growing" arsenal of weapons of mass destruction encourages it to cling on to occupied Arab territories, Al-Shar' added that the countries most exposed to the threat of mass destruction are Arab and African states which have no deterrent against the "lethal weapons" possessed by Israel and South Africa.

Like his Iraqi counterpart, Al-Shar' stressed that measures to eliminate CW must be coupled with a parallel call for eliminating and destroying other weapons of total destruction. It is "not permissible that the security of certain states be safeguarded at the expense of others," Al-Shar' asserted.

Given the existing "disequilibrium" in the Middle East, the international community should not be "selective" by eliminating just one type of weapon of mass destruction without considering the elimination of other types. As reported by the radio, the Syrian minister's speech contained no reference to Iraq's use of CW.

In further Iranian comment, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati warned that the Paris conference is "too conservative" to make decisions that "match the gravity" of the situation, IRNA reported. Velayati warned that CW will be used again unless "punitive measures" are taken against countries that use or have used them.

Lebanon

The Amal Movement has recaptured the townships of Jba' and Kafr Fila and is determined to "wipe out" Hizballah's presence in Iqlim al-Tuffah, according to Amal officials cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Hizballah sources acknowledged that their forces have "withdrawn" from villages in the region to their original positions in the hills further east. Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen continued in Iqlim al-Tuffah 10 January and a preliminary casualty count indicates that 77 people have been killed and 147 wounded since fighting broke out in the area. The radio said that some 15,000 people have left their homes to avoid the fighting.

Radio Free Lebanon also reported that Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati described the Amal-Hizballah dispute as a "catastrophe" and that Iranian broadcasting director Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Beirut in an attempt to contain the conflict.

Israel

Foreign Relations—Full diplomatic ties between Hungary and Israel could be established "within a few months," visiting Hungarian Agriculture Minister Jeno Vancsa stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. During his 9-day visit the two countries signed a wide-ranging memorandum on agriculture.

After talks with his PRC counterpart in Paris, Foreign Minister Arens stated in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that the PRC has shown "understanding" of Israel's positions and problems. Both sides agreed that the PRC and Israeli UN delegations maintain contacts, he added.

On relations with the USSR, a source in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office cited by MA'ARIV disclosed that the Soviet Union has sent a message to Israel stressing that the latter should make "a gesture" toward the Palestinians as a precondition for continuing the improvement of bilateral relations.

Peace Policy—Israel does not have a detailed peace plan ready for submission to an international forum, Prime Minister Shamir said in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. However, he noted that Israel is prepared for direct negotiations under UN or superpower auspices on condition they do not interfere with the content of the negotiations.

Shamir's remarks followed a claim by THE NATION newspaper that it has obtained a draft of the government's Middle East initiative which includes Israel's "first expression of willingness to negotiate an ultimate solution" to the territories problem.

Territories—Jerusalem radio reported that 15 people were injured in unrest in Judaea and Samaria 9 January.

Western Sahara

A Polisario Front statement said the recent Polisario-Moroccan talks have opened the way to a "complete and definitive accord" and should lead to "the active phase" of a peace process, AFP reported.

Both sides could move "hand in hand" to a "free and fair referendum on self-determination", the statement said, adding that "serious and responsible dialogue" has replaced the "language of destruction." Polisario stated that Moroccan King Hassan II has adopted a "constructive and courageous position".

Afghanistan

In a speech broadcast by Kabul radio, President Najibullah viewed the breakdown of Soviet-mujahidin talks in Pakistan as evidence that some opposition leaders still insist on their "imaginary and selfish" plans. They offer no "realistic and practical" solution and none of them has a clear vision of a practical policy for the future, he claimed.

They not only ignore the PDPA's role, he said, but they have "closed their eyes" to the role of other groupings including the alliance of eight in Iran and the former Afghan king. He went on to emphasize the need to continue talks and stressed a military solution will not bring "favorable" results.

The Soviet view was expressed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov who regretted the opposition's rejection of the cease-fire offer, Moscow radio reported. He affirmed the need for a "broadly-based" government which includes all political forces involved in the conflict.

A Moscow radio commentator warned that the breakup of the peace talks can only lead to a new flareup of the civil war. He declared that opposition leader Sebghatullah Mujadeddi has probably "yielded" to pressure from the "fundamentalists" led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

Palestinian Affairs

‘Text’ of ‘Arafat News Conference in Amman

JN0901100189 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Jan 89 p 15

[‘Text’ of news conference by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir ‘Arafat at the Guest Palace in Amman on 8 January]

[Text] [Question] Following your talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa‘i, how do you view the political steps on the Arab and international scenes?

[Answer] I am happy to say that the talks were constructive, positive, and important. They were held in a cordial and brotherly atmosphere and dealt with a number of important issues. They dealt with the recent steps and points of the Palestinian march during and after the PNC session, what happened in Geneva, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, and the Palestinian-Jordanian-Arab moves to establish a just and comprehensive peace.

The talks also discussed the importance of adopting a united Arab position to expedite the convocation of the next Arab summit conference.

[Question] How can an Arab summit be convened while there are differences between you and Syria and between Iraq and Syria?

[Answer] Previous summit conferences were held although there were differences. However, our summit conferences were successful, like the three previous ones.

On the other hand, a summit conference itself is convened to resolve disputes. This is a natural matter in the world and its conferences. The EC, African, and other summits are convened while there are major common differences.

[Question] Did your talks with His Majesty King Husayn touch on a confederation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestine?

[Answer] As it is known, four PNC sessions—Algiers 1983, Amman 1984, Algiers 1987, and Algiers 1988—adopted resolutions stressing the importance of the distinguished relations between the two peoples and the future relations between Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan based on a confederation.

We as a Palestinian leadership are committed to the implementation of these resolutions and always concentrate on them. We have always found a good response from the brother Jordanians. However, we did not go into details.

[Question] What about the provisional government and why has it not been formed?

[Answer] The subject of a provisional government is still under discussion by the Palestinian leadership, taking into consideration that the PLO Executive Committee is exercising the prerogatives of the provisional government until it is formed. We have set up a special committee to discuss all aspects of this important issue.

[Question] What about your presence in the Lebanese arena?

[Answer] I would like to point out that we have confirmed information about a war scenario being prepared by Israel in Lebanon against the Palestinian presence in Tyre and Sidon.

We believe that the two recent military operations in north and east Sidon were, as military experts put it, a noisy reconnaissance. We are happy about reaching an agreement with the Amal Movement to end any dispute in Lebanon.

I appeal from here to my brothers in Amal and Hizballah to reach a solution to their problems so that we all may be able to confront the expected Israeli blow. I reiterate that we in the PLO are ready to extend all that we can to end the dispute between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

[Question] Following the beginning of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, how do you view next steps to convene an international peace conference?

[Answer] Both sides are required to agree on the importance of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. According to international detente, there are eight hotbeds to which solutions must be reached, headed by the Middle East and the Palestine issues.

The issues of the Iraq-Iran war, Afghanistan, Namibia, Cyprus, Central America, and Cambodia have either been resolved or are under discussion, except for the Palestine question, which has not come under discussion yet. This because of the Israeli stand rejecting peace.

This stand is the result of unlimited U.S. support, which enables Israel to reject peace. The Americans have spoiled their pampered baby.

[Question] How do you view the possibility of changing the Israeli stand?

[Answer] I want to remind you of the year 1956 when Eisenhower was able to impose peace on Israel and two major countries, the UK and France, after the Suez war.

We hope the new U.S. Administration will do what Eisenhower did.

[Question] How do you view the recent Israeli proposal announced by Shamir on the establishment of a confederation of Israel, Palestine, and Jordan?

[Answer] I am not responsible for Shamir's and Arens' sick dreams. They speak with a prehistoric logic. They are not affected by 20th century political changes.

When he speaks about Camp David, he knows that the other side—Egypt—has said through President Husni Mubarak that the Palestinian clause in the Camp David accords is dead.

I do not want here to teach Shamir politics. Shamir is acting like a merchant who begins to search in his old books when he becomes bankrupt. Nobody can turn the clock back.

Anyway, Shamir should know that 54 percent of the Israeli people support peace and dialogue with the PLO. This is what their public opinion polls show.

[Question] Some voices called for a truce between the uprising and Israel. How do you view this matter?

[Answer] There are no voices. Ilyas Frayj had his own interpretation and he went back on it because he was not convinced of it. He then said that the Israelis do not want peace.

[Question] How do you see the differences between the PLO and some Islamic forces inside the occupied territory?

[Answer] They exist inside the PNC. They agreed on some PNC resolutions and objected to others, like the other forces. This is Palestinian democracy. And this is their right. I respect this and take it into consideration because I was elected by them.

[Question] Do you have information leading to the identity of the side that stands behind the Pan Am airliner explosion?

[Answer] I said in my speech at the United Nations and at the press conference that there are attempts by the Mosad and others to undermine the peace march.

I consider this crime one of the issues I meant in my speech about undermining peace. The Israelis also escalated their iron-fist policy in the occupied territory. This also aims at torpedoing the peace process.

I also said that the downing of the two Libyan planes will affect the peace process. The objective of the aggression on the Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps is also to obstruct the peace march.

The issue of the American plane is still under investigation and I can accuse no one.

I know that the Mosad presented to Shamir some ideas to torpedo the peace process inside and outside the occupied territory and he agreed to them.

At the end of the conference, I would like to reiterate thanks to His Majesty King Husayn for his splendid fraternal decision to upgrade the level of Palestinian representation in Jordan to an embassy and to hoist the Palestinian flag on the embassy building.

I thank him in my own name and on behalf of my brothers in the Executive Committee and the Palestinian people.

God willing, the joint march will lead us to achieve our objectives of bringing about a just peace and reaching Jerusalem.

Qaddumi, Netherlands Official Meet in Tunis

NC0901154389 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 9 (AFP)—Officials from the PLO and the Netherlands met here Monday in the first official contact between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Dutch Government.

The talks were conducted by Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO's foreign policy advisor, and the Dutch Foreign Ministry political director, Henry Wijnaendts.

The Dutch delegation refused to make any statement after a first round of talks, which lasted two hours.

But Mr. Qaddumi told reporters that the PLO expected the Dutch Government to use its influence within the European Economic Community, where it has been Israel's strongest supporter, to help re-launch the peace process in the Middle East.

The delegation was expected to meet later Monday with Hani al-Hasan, president of the Palestine National Council (PNC) foreign relations commission.

A meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently in North Yemen, has not yet been arranged.

The Hague decided to dispatch an official delegation for talks with the PLO following Mr. 'Arafat's statement last December 14 explicitly recognising Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism.

One day after Mr. 'Arafat made the remarks in Geneva, the United States scrapped a 13-year ban on contacts with the PLO and authorised its ambassador in Tunis to have a first round of official talks with the Palestinian organisation December 16.

Official sources in The Hague said last week that the meetings here would allow the Netherlands to assess the evolution of the Palestinian position over the past two months.

'Abdallah Hurani on Palestinian-U.S. Dialogue

JN0901120489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 9 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has ruled out that the American dialogue with the PLO will soon resolve the existing differences in viewpoints between the two sides with regard to the international peace conference on the Middle East and PLO participation in it.

He affirmed that there is still a large gap between the two viewpoints. He said that the recent Tunisia meeting is only the opening of the dialogue and the beginning of Palestinian-American relations.

In a statement to the Qatari newspapers AL-RAYAH and AL-SHARQ published today, Hurani expects the American dialogue with the PLO to continue for a long time, possibly extending until after the convening of an international conference.

Hurani expressed hope that the dialogue will continue with the beginning of the new U.S. Administration or at least take a serious course, because during the first meeting in Tunisia each side presented its known viewpoint.

On the Palestinian move in the coming stage and the attempt to move the U.S. stand from merely talking with the PLO to accepting Palestinian rights, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state, Hurani, who was a member of the Palestinian delegation in the first official American dialogue with the PLO, expressed his conviction that this matter does not depend on the ability of the Palestinian negotiator or the strength of Palestinian rights.

He noted that there are influential factors. He said that at the head of these factors is the continuation of the heroic popular uprising in the occupied territory and its escalation to guarantee its effect on Israeli society and the international community in addition to the Palestinian movement inside the Israeli community on the popular and official levels through dialogue with Israeli forces and parties.

He added that among these factors is the continuation of the unity of the Arab stand and the exploitation of its influence in the international arena to affect the American stand, ability, and desire to play an effective role in influencing the Israeli stand and forcing it respond to the international will.

This is in addition to the effect of all these factors on the Jewish communities throughout the world, particularly in America, as well as the result of the American-Soviet dialogue in light of the policy of international breakthrough.

Al-Natshah Rejects Formation of Popular Army

JN1001112889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 Jan 89 pp 1, 14

[Telephone interview with Rafiq al-Natshah, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian "ambassador" to Saudi Arabia—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [AL-WATAN] It has been announced that a popular army has recently been established in Gaza. What are the tasks and objectives of this army? Is it related to the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising?

Is it an alternative to the security committees? Have various Palestinian factions been consulted about its formation?

[Al-Natshah] The idea of a popular army is a call for a special force consisting of youths who are pursued by the Israeli enemy authorities and who live outside their homes and areas.

I do not support this idea for the following reasons:

- All our people are a popular army, including women, children, and men, whether pursued by the Israeli enemy or not. Those who are not pursued today might be tomorrow.
- This idea will divide our people in the occupied homeland, especially since it will be at the expense of the strike forces deployed in every town and village, on every street and alley, and in every camp of our militant people.
- In case such an idea is implemented, it will cause confusion on two levels:

First, it will cause confusion for the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, which supervises all organizations in occupied Palestine, including strike forces, youth societies, unions, and charity societies.

Second, it will confuse the masses, whose orientations and affiliations will be divided between the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, which stands for national unity and works under the PLO's leadership, and a new leadership with unknown domestic and foreign affiliations.

Therefore, I do not believe this idea is in the interests of the uprising or will be accepted by the Palestinian leadership as there is unanimity on supporting the uprising through the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, which plays a political, militant, social, and cultural role and does everything to serve our people inside Palestine.

Therefore, I say as loud as I can: No to the idea of the popular army. All our people are a popular army.

[AL-WATAN] News agencies yesterday reported that a front opposing the PLO has been formed comprising the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—and the Ahmad Jibril and Abu Musa [Musa Sa'id Muragha] groups.

Reports also said that statements have been distributed in the occupied territories calling for a new PNC based on the liberation of entire Palestine. What is your comment on these reports?

[Al-Natshah] We have heard various similar calls. I do not believe that such calls can succeed.

I believe the PLO is the legitimate and sound framework within which we can discuss all orientations and tendencies to boost the march, amend its line, or reform it.

The PLO Charter is still the foundation of the PLO's political and militant action. An incremental program is the base of the current political move. Discussion must concentrate the extent of harmony established between various political decisions on the one hand and the charter and the incremenmtal porogram on the other.

It must not concentrate on the establishment of new formations outside the PLO because this will create further divisions which will not serve the Palestine question.

According to my information, I can confirm that Hamas can only cooperate with Fatah and within the PLO both inside and outside the homeland, although its political stands may occasionally not be in line with the PLO's political approach at a particular stage or on a certain issue.

[AL-WATAN] Many statements have been issued by various factions affiliated with the PLO indicating there are differences in stands, although these factions attended the PNC and approved the resolutions of the "uprising session" desspite their objection to Resolutions 242 and 338. We fear this might cause a fracture in the Palestinian ranks—a fracture that might grow to the extent of affecting Palestinian national unity.

We conclude this from the PFLP statements in particular as well as from the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front. What is your comment?

[Al-Natshah] This is not the first time that statements have been issued announcing the stand of a certain faction or group. Any faction has the right to declare its stand toward any issue or political stand. This is a legitimate right.

However, no split can occur because of an opposition stand. We do not fear opposition stands. This a characteristic of the Palestinian arena.

However, it is not acceptable for opposition to turn into conflicts and splits because this affects the Palestine question in general and the uprising in particular.

I can assert that the disagreement that took place in the PNC was not over approving or disapproving Resolutions 242 and 338, but over the formula within which the two resolutions were mentioned.

All PNC members rejected the two resolutions when dissociated from the overall, announced, incerementai rights of the Palestinian people, which are:

1. Self-determination.

2. The establishment of their Palestinian state on Palestinian land.

3. The PLO's being their sole, legitimate representative in any international forum, such as an international conference, discussing the Palestine question.

4. The return of refugees to their homeland. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Paper Praises Call for U.S. 'Restraint'

NC1001090489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has praised Egypt's swift call to the United States to exercise restraint and Egypt's warning of the consequences of any military action that might affect Arab-U.S. relations. Egypt's warning came in the wake of the U.S. threats to strike at what Washington describes as the Libyan factory for the production of chemical weapons and Libya's categorical denial of these accusations.

In its editorial in Tuesday's edition, the paper notes that the Egyptian initiative was timely. Despite the acts of molestation which led to the downing of two Libyan aircraft, the paper says, Libya seems, with the transfer of the crisis to the UN Security Council at Libya's request, to have a better opportunity to address the international community and refute the U.S. accusations.

The paper points out that the Arabs had and still have a prominent role in containing the crisis and referring it to legitimate echelons away from military confrontations. Such confrontations, it says, would harm America's interests and image and affect its improving relations with the Arab world in general. This is at a time when circumstances are constantly developing for a solution of the Palestinian issue with U.S. participation, a situation which has received the consent of all the Arab parties and claimants in the issue.

The paper notes the assertion by U.S. sources that there have been contacts between Libya and the United States through another party, rumored to be the UAE, on the mutual exchange of assurances.

AL-AHRAM also notes Libya's declaration that it will not produce or use chemical weapons if the United States declares its commitment not to attack what Washington considers a chemical weapons factory.

Columnist Decries U.S. 'Aggression' on Libya

JN0901175689 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Jan 89 p 16

["Toward Tomorrow" column by Husayn Fahmi]

[Text] The United States shot down two Libyan planes over the Mediterranean near Tobruk. [Arab League Secretary General] Klibi termed this action as "an extremely serious aggression." He urged the United States to stop provoking Libya and condemned the presence of U.S. naval forces near the Libyan coast. Klibi did not deviate an iota from the truth as we shall see. Although such news may appear ordinary or routine in view of the information, political, and military campaign the United States has been launching against Libya for years, the matter this time seems to be largely important and serious for several reasons.

The U.S. aggression involves a military escalation of tension between the United States and Libya. It is a tension which the United States created through its provocations and continuous aggressions. It was not a coincidence that the United States attacked the two planes as part of an international political and information campaign.

The United States has been instigating the bombardment of a Libyan pharmaceutical plant under construction, claiming that it is a plant for poisonous gas. Despite the exposure of the falsehood of this allegation on the world level when Libya expressed its readiness to accept international investigation into the matter, Washington continued to repeat its accusations.

The U.S. aggression also threatens the climate of international rapprochement and escalates tension in one of the areas of tension that most threatens U.S.-Soviet relations. This aggression also threatens the policy adopted by the two superpowers to resolve regional problems peacefully. The most serious fact revealed by the U.S. aggression is that the U.S. policy continues to stick to Reagan's policy which insists that the United States is entitled to interfere anywhere in the Third World and to get rid of governments it does not want.

Hence, the U.S. aggression not only threatens Libya but also all Arab and Third World countries. Therefore, all condemned the U.S. aggression.

The U.S. aggression is also a defiance of the will of the American people themselves because the Senate and House of Representatives banned any U.S. military intervention outside the United States.

'Abd al-Majid Addresses Paris Conference

NC0901082289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Paris, 8 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who delivered Egypt's address to the conference in Paris discussing the banning of chemical weapons, has urged the conference to move in two complementary directions; namely, to prevent the use and also the proliferation of these weapons.

He pointed out that the conference must reassert the rules of international law proscribing the use of chemical weapons as they appeared in the 1925 Convention. He added that the conference must also give impetus to the Geneva negotiations to prepare a treaty totally banning chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed Egypt's belief that the treaty's success in attracting the greatest possible number of countries to join it and to be committed to its provisions is necessary for its success as a legal system. The system which the treaty will establish will affect two basic principles which must be preserved. The first is a parity in commitments and rights, and the second is implementation on a global scale.

In order to implement these two principles, Egypt has urged that the proposed treaty for the total banning of chemical weapons should not perpetuate the discrimination between blocs of countries which was established by the treaty on nuclear nonproliferation. Egypt has also urged that consultations preceding the conclusion of the treaty should be expanded to include all countries, both parties to the Geneva conference and countries that are not parties to it, before the draft treaty is submitted to the UN General Assembly for approval.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has also urged that the treaty should include such provisions for penalties and guarantees as would guarantee its implementation by all its signatories. The entire proposal on this matter which was submitted by Egypt within the framework of the Geneva Disarmament Conference is summarized in two points:

1. Out of Egypt's concern to guarantee the international nature of the treaty, it does not favor referring its proposal directly to the UN General Assembly for approval but rather sees a need for holding prior consultations to precede the completion of the final draft of the treaty.

We believe that this should be done by an invitation that UN secretary general would issue to all UN members, not merely to the parties participating in the disarmament conference, to attend an international conference that would discuss all aspects of the treaty.

2. We are afraid that the international treaty will not be concluded if it does not provide for penalties against the countries that violate its provisions and if it does not include guarantees to impose these penalties in all cases of violation without discrimination between countries. This will endow the treaty with a great degree of credibility.

Egypt has proposed to the Geneva conference to add an article to this effect to the draft treaty pertaining to a total ban.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the issue of eliminating chemical weapons and banning their proliferation must not be handled in isolation from the issue of banning the spread of other weapons of total destruction and eliminating them, particularly nuclear weapons. He remarked that the link between the two proceeds from the fact that the issue of international security, both on the global and regional levels, is an integral whole.

He pointed out that it is not logical for the interantional community to allow some countries in some of the world's most sensitive spots to maintain a nuclear option "without any international supervision."

He added that while the international community is demanding a total ban on chemical weapons, all forms of threat posed by the possession of either type of weapon must be firmly confronted. For this reason we believe that the success of attaining a ban on chemical weapons in the framework I have proposed requires the attainment of a collateral ban on nuclear weapons.

He said that the basic issue is that countries should be reassured that they will not be subjected to a threat as a result of allowing other countries to possess weapons of total destruction of any type.

'Abd al-Majid asserted that on this issue Egypt completely agrees with the contents of French President Francois Mitterrand's speech to the 43d UN General Assembly session on 29 September 1988.

He added: If we take our region, the Middle East, as an example, we will discover that while the Arab countries have joined the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, Israel has refused to be bound by is provisions and has continued to develop its nuclear capability without submitting to the IAEA system of guarantees.

'Abd al-Majid remarked that this is a matter that cannot be disregarded if we are to spare the region the horrors resulting from the use of weapons of total destruction.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that since the issue of international security, whether global or regional, is an indivisible whole, it has become imperative to take into consideration the constant connection involving th various disamament treaties which govern weapons of total destruction on a global scale and based on an equality of commitments.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid then presented briefly certain elements which are compatible with Egypt's views and which might be considered by the conference's declaration and final staement. These elements include:

1. Demanding the Geneva Disarmament Conference to forge ahead with its debates with the aim of attaining comprehensive disarmament under effective interantional supervision;

2. Stressing the need to apply the principle of global implementation to all the disarmament treaties, particularly the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons;

3. Demanding the application of a meticulous control and investigation system on all the disarmament treaties which govern the weapons of total destruction, as is the case in the treaty on the total banning of chemical weapons; and

4. Stressing the need to eliminate all shortcomigns in the existing treaties so that they would be in parity with the control and investigation system which will be aproved concerning the toal banning of chemical wepaons.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid went on to empahsize that challenges to security play a primary role in increasing the proliferation of varius destructive weapons throughout the world. He noted that if the international community wishes to work out genuine solutions for this problem it must seriously participate in finding just and lasting settlements of all the various regional conflicts. At that time, the incentives to possess weapons of mass destruction and to expand the scope of prliferation on the regional scale would become unjustified and, consequently, mankind would enjoy a larger scope of security, safety, and peace. [passage omitted]

Terms for Mubarak Visit to Israel Outlined

*PM0901090589 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
3 Jan 89 p 1*

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Mubarak to Israel: No Visit to Israel While Uprising's Martyrs Perish"]

[Text] Political sources have said that Egypt's response to Yitzhaq Shamir's invitation to President Mubarak to visit Israel included five conditions which Egypt has asked Israel to agree to before a visit can be made. The Egyptian conditions, conveyed to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir via diplomatic channels, are as follows:

1. Israel's agreement to the international peace conference idea endorsed by former Israeli Prime Minister Peres at the Alexandria summit with President Mubarak in September 1985.

2. Israel's agreement to hold negotiations with the PLO, on the grounds that it is the principal party representing the Palestinian people's rights and speaking on their behalf at all international forums convened for that purpose and at the various talks held to discuss the Palestinian problem.

3. Israel's agreement that the true preparation for Mubarak's visit to Israel is for it to refrain completely from applying its repressive measures against Palestinian inhabitants in the occupied territories. This is because Mubarak's visit cannot take place while Palestinian martyrs are falling victim to Israeli repression.

4. Israel's commitment to the results reached via international negotiations in order to achieve peace, so that such negotiations will not merely be meetings producing no serious results.

5. Israel's agreement that a solution to the conflict must stress the need to comprehensively resolve all aspects of the conflict with the PLO, and not to divide the Arab issue into various parts.

Iraq's Ramadan Concludes Visit, Departs 9 Jan

*NC0901094489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0928 GMT
9 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him, left Cairo this morning, following a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

During his stay in Egypt Ramadan delivered a message to President Mubarak from his brother President Saddam Husayn. He also chaired the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Joint Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Committee.

Ramadan was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. [passage omitted]

Trade Protocol for 1989 Signed With USSR

*NC0901180189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1611 GMT
9 Jan 89*

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and the Soviet Union signed a new trade protocol for 1989 in Cairo today. The protocol totals 620 million accounting pounds sterling, an increase of 70 million pounds sterling over last year's protocol. Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, attended the signing cermony.

The protocol was signed for Egypt by 'Adil al-Jarihi, the Economy Ministry's first under secretary, and for the Soviet Union by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations who is currently visiting Cairo.

Following the signing of the new protocol between the two countries, Dr Yusri Mustafa stated that a number of equal deals estimated at approximately 300 million accounting pounds sterling will be signed in the forthcoming stage. The trade volume between the two countries wil thus total approximately 920 million accounting pounds sterling. He said that the new trade protocol will allow Egypt, for the first time, to export such goods as carpets, rugs, and suits to the Soviet Union.

Under this protocol the Soviet Union will export such commodities as paper, cement, glass, and tires to Egypt for the first time. It should be recalled that Egyptian officials and a Soviet economic delegation had held talks over the past 6 days prior to signing the protocol.

Soviet Delegation Departs

*NC1001054489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2156 GMT
9 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this evening at the conclusion of a week-long visit. 'Adil al-Jarihi, under secretary at the Ministry of Economy, saw off the Soviet delegation. [passage omitted]

Soviet AAPSO Delegation Arrives for Visit

NC0901224089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—A Soviet delegation led by Mikhail Kapitsa, director of the USSR's Oriental Studies Institute and chairman of the Soviet AAPSO Committee, arrived in Cairo from Moscow this evening for a week-long visit to Egypt.

The delegation includes Sergey Vinogradov, chairman of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society; Aleksey Vasilyev, deputy director of the USSR's Africa Institute; and professors of the Oriental and African Studies Institute. The delegation will attend a 2-day seminar on prospects of peace in the Middle East.

This seminar has been organized by the Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Egyptian AAPSO Committee and will begin tomorrow. The delegation is also expected to attend a seminar on the Arab-Soviet dialogue from 14 to 16 January, which has been organized by the Egyptian AAPSO Committee. The delegation was met at the airport by Ambassador Mahmud Fathi, director of the East Europe Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

Columnist on Soviet, Israeli Demands on Press

JN0901180389 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Jan 89 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] Egyptian press freedom has its enemies. Some of its worst enemies are Israel and the Soviet Union. Both of them want the Egyptian press to lie to its readers and to beautify Israel's and the Soviet Union's ugly faces. Every day the Soviet Union and Israel complain about the facts published by the Egyptian press.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry replies that Egypt's press is free. In this way, it pins a medal on Egypt's chest which Israel does not see and the Soviet Union does not understand. This is because Israel's press is directed and censored, and the Soviet Union's press is worth absolutely nothing, does not know what freedom is, and has never practiced it.

Israel wants Egypt's press to forget the Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, Bahr al-Baqar, Abu Za'bal, Sabra, Shatila, and all other massacres. It wants it to ignore the ugly incidents taking place in the occupied territories. This reached the stage where U.S. Jews themselves complained. U.S. Jews are allowed to accuse Israel of ugly acts, but Egypt's press is prohibited from telling the truth.

Israel complains, but the truth is stronger than any complaint. Israel still is the terrorist and racist regime led by five terrorists who practiced terrorism, admitted it, and are proud of it, and which itself was their qualification for leadership. Israel wants us to adhere to the Camp David accords at a time when its prime minister and new foreign minister oppose this agreement and do not recognize it. Israel is asking for the impossible and, therefore, does not have anyone who listens to it in Egypt.

The Soviet Union wants Egypt's press to lie, to say that communism is heaven, and that the citizen in the Soviet Union lives in bliss. Why should we lie? Gorbachev has made a mockery of communism and accused its leaders of corruption, bribery, of having been a group of criminals, having ruined the industrial and agricultural production, destroyed the human being in the Soviet Union, fought religion, and killed and displaced all those who looked to the heavens for help.

Do we say more about the Soviet Union than what Gorbachev himself has said about the bad production, incompetence of the administration, and corruption of the leadership? Gorbachev's attempts at reform, despite the fact that they are a drop in the ocean, are exactly like a drop of white in the Mediterranean sea. That drop cannot discolor or change it.

Despite all this, those in power are fighting off Gorbachev's reforms for fear that a Pandora's box be opened and the ugliness of the situation revealed. Freedom is contagious; if society is infected by it, it demands more. If the individual in any communist country were liberated, he would reject the system and its leaders. The voices opposing communism in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland are still ringing despite the violence of communist oppression.

Should we lie and say that communism is a paradise when everyday we hear of people fleeing to the free West? We have not heard of one citizen from a free country fleeing to a communist country. The Berlin Wall is evidence of this. Should we lie and say that communism is a workers' paradise, when we see that the worker in France is much better off than the worker in East Germany?

The communist parties collapse and lose in free elections. Communism is imposed only through the power of weapons and Soviet occupation armies.

Israel's and the Soviet Union's embassies in Cairo are in an embarrassing situation. No matter how much the two ambassadors complain about the Egyptian press, it will not conceal the reality of the ugly society in the two countries.

PLO Delegation Arrives for Talks 9 Jan

NC0901062889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation comprising Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Dr Nabil Sha'th, PNC member and adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt that will last several days.

Dr Sha'th said that the delegation will have talks with Egyptian officials on the current Arab situation.

Libya Agrees To Settle Workers' Back Pay

NC0901084489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Hasan 'Id, secretary of the Federation of Egyptian Foreign Communications Workers, has stated that Libya has agreed in principle to settle back pay due to Egyptian workers who left Libya in 1983. He added that he had received assurances on this matter from ILO officials. The ILO is supervising discussions pertaining to the back pay of these Egyptians. Meetings between Egyptian and Libyan representatives to discuss this issue are due to be held on 7 and 8 February.

Death Penalty Requested in Major Drug Case

NC0901091389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1617 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—The Public Prosecutor's Office has demanded the death penalty for 19 defendants in a major narcotics case. It has also instructed Interpol to arrest six fugitive defendants and present them for interrogation.

These include an Israeli citizen called Ya'cov Mizrahi.

The Public Prosecutor's Office also issued instructions for the disclosure of the real name of the leader of an international narcotics gang who has adopted the codename "Ibrahim".

This came in a statement issued today by Public Prosecutor Counselor Mahir al-Jundi to the prosecutor's office in Ismailia Governorate. The statement deals with the results of the investigation into a major narcotics case. A ship belonging to a Caribbean state was seized at Suez port. It had been carrying large quantities of opium, raw hashish, and heroin.

The drugs were hidden in large methane gas cylinders and canvas bags in various parts of the ship. The drugs seized totalled 3,687 kg of opium, 1,622 kg of hashish, and 289 kg of heroin.

Counselor al-Jundi said that the defendants are of 12 different nationalities but there is not a single Egyptian among them. He denied rumors that some Egyptians have been involved in the case. [passage omitted]

The defendants have confessed that they took delivery of the drugs in an area between Iran and Pakistan in order to smuggle them into Egypt and distribute them in Egyptian markets. The ship's captain, a Sudanese called Ahmad Muhammad, confessed that he made an agreement with the leader of the gang, who uses the alias "Ibrahim," to bring the ship to the region. [passage omitted]

The fugitive defendants are Muhammad Husayn, a Lebanese who had been arrested earlier in similar cases in Israel and West Germany and is one of the most dangerous drug traffickers; Ibrahim Fahim, a Palestinian; Ya'cov Mizrahi, an Israeli; Shafiq Yusuf Rahmah, a Lebanese; Muhammad Husayn Baru, an American citizen of Lebanese descent; and Muhammad Tawifiq 'Alam from Bangladesh.

The defendants who are in custody are from Bangladesh, Sudan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Palestine.

Libya

JANA Clarifies Details on Al-Rabitah

LD0901093689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Jan (JANA)—Some Western media yesterday reported that their correspondents had viewed the pharmaceuticals plant building in Al-Rabitah, in the town of Gharyan, but the visit did not help determine the nature of the buildings. They also said that there were weapons, (?antiaircraft) guns, and buildings in the area.

JANA's local affairs commentator comments:

"The Great Jamahiriyah invited journalists from various countries of the world as an expression of its good will and out of its concern to enable journalists to acquaint themselves with the reality of a small country upon which aggression and confrontation are imposed by a superpower, namely the United States, and also to enable them to acquaint themselves more with true Libyans who, together with their families and children, are staging a sit-in. They have joined the medical doctors and pharmacists in the new town of Al-Rabitah and around the pharmaceuticals plant being built there.

The statements claiming that the journalists' visit to the plant's buildings did not help determine the nature of these buildings, and that there are weapons, (?antiaircraft) guns, and (?other) buildings are inaccurate, and lack objectivity. The truth is as follows:

1. Al-Rabitah is an area where a new city, the city of Al-Rabitah, is being built, and the Libyan masses are gathering to stage a sit-in in the pharmaceutical factory and the new city.

2. Buildings are under construction, and the workshops surrounding the buildings belong to a car assembly factory which is being built next to the new city.

3. Journalists, unless they are specialists, are not experts in determining the nature of the factory and its installations.

4. Adopting the argument of the existence of guns and weapons in the area surrounding the factory, so as to give it another character, falls in line with the desires of some.

The reply to this is: In the face of U.S. threats to deal a blow to the area, are the masses staging a sit-in there not entitled to make available the means to defend the area and to protect themselves?

The Great Jamahiriyah, in as much as it is concerned with enabling journalists to carry out their professional duties, requires that they necessarily committed to the rules of neutrality, objectivity, and impartiality dictated by the requirements of their profession.

Basic People's Congresses March to Al-Rabitah

LD0901173489 Tripoli JANA in English 1605 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Rabitah, Ay al-Nar [January] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic People's Congresses, pupils of Al-Amal al-Akhdhar Secondary School, Al-Jala' School, Al-Simud School, 'Umar al-Mukhtar School, January 14th Secondary Barrack, the Vocational Congress for Electricity in the Western Mountain Municipality, the Basic People's Congresses in the eastern Sahara have all marched to the pharmaceuticals factory in the town of Gharyan closing ranks with the doctors and pharmacists staging a sit-in there.

The above masses have held emergency meetings in the office of the factory announcing their readiness to die in defence of the civilized achievements that have accomplished for the Libyan Arab people thanks to the great Al-Fatih Revolution in various spheres.

The masses have announced their conscious commitment to the principles and objectives of the great Al-Fatih Revolution and their support to the cause of peoples worldwide. This has come about through the conscious discussions of these masses in these meetings.

On concluding their meetings, these masses have paid tribute to the sisterly and friendly countries for their honourable stances and support to the people of great Al-Jamahiriyah in defence of its civilized and massive achievements.

JANA Arab Affairs Editor Salutes Arab Stance

LD0901174089 Tripoli JANA in English 1705 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Arab foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting tomorrow in Tunis to encounter the premediated U.S. aggression against Great al-Jamahiriyah. On this meeting, JANA's Arab affairs editor says it gives wide-ranging (?indications), apart from being important, perpetuating the pan-Arab spirit on the ascendance in the great Arab homeland owing to the repeated imperialism-Zionist onslaughts.

The Arab nation, in its unity today, has appeared as a formidable force that has deservedly obtained the honour of belonging to Arabism and the Arab history rife with struggles and sacrifices in encountering the repeated colonialist waves.

The editor asserts that the emergency meeting at the representatives level following the threat directed by the U.S. against Great al-Jamahiriyah has reconfirmed that the Arab countries when closing ranks can impose its presence and have the respect it deserves on all those who have cherished the thoughts that they can take each Arab country by itself to put into practice their plots and achieve their hostile strategies in the Arab homeland.

The editor has lauded the official and popular stances of Arab countries pointing out that the Arab nation has proven with capability that it is able to face up to U.S. arrogance and foil its plots. Such an eventuality has angered the U.S. circles against the Arabs countries, so much so that the U.S. representative at the Security Council attacked the Arab Gulf countries because they have stood alongside Great Al-Jamahiriyah against the U.S. threats and because they have openly said their opinion saying 'no' to any aggression against an Arab country and saying 'no' to U.S. arrogance and allegations.

History, the editor adds, will record this unified Arab stance with pride. Such a stand will unavoidably make the Arab nation triumphant wrecking the enemies of Arabism one after another.

Such a stand reveals that the Arab consciousness has reached a level heralding a better future for our nation. Such an awareness has perpetuated the pan-Arab consciousness regarding the danger posed by the (?acts) of U.S. imperialism and Zionism against the present status and future of the Arab nation thereby creating an awareness of the necessity of Arab unity warning the enemies against the danger of taking each Arab country by itself. Such a stand on the Arab nation brings the good news that there will be a political and economic status for this nation compatible with its merit.

The editor concludes his comments by saluting this stance paying tribute to each part of the Arab homeland stressing that history will record proudly this stand. Greetings to each Arab country that has stood against the new crusaders. Greetings to the Arab League as an active unionist symbol coming as a response to the call of the conscience of our nation assuming a proud stance.

Thai Workers Said Spotted at Al-Rabitah Factory

BK1001012589 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Jan 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] Up to 200 Thais are working at the desert factory in Libya against which US President Ronald Reagan last month said he would not rule out a military strike.

Journalists taken by Libyan authorities on a trip to the Al-Rabitah factory on Saturday spotted up to 200 Thai workers leaving the site in a bus and trailers, they said.

The United States alleges the factory is a chemical weapons plant, but Libya insists the plant is designed for production of medicine.

Jonathan Wright, REUTERS correspondent in Tunis who was among more than 150 reporters, photographers and cameramen taken on a trip to the plant, told the BANGKOK POST by telephone from Tunis last night there was no doubt the workers were Thai.

As the party of journalists approached the plant around sunset a truck blcked the road at a junction.

The buses carrying the journalists stopped, giving Mr Wright an opportunity to speak to one of the workers who were travelling in a large bus and two shipping containers.

"I asked him where he was from," said Mr Wright. "He said 'Thailand'".

The journalists also saw a notice written in both Arabic and Thai about meal times in a cafeteria.

In Bangkok Labour Department Deputy Director General Prasong Rannanan confirmed there are about 10,000 Thai workers in Libya.

The Al-Rabitah factory director, Ali Ibrahim, told the reporters the plant was completely the work of Libyan workers and experts, but the journalists had spotted the Thai workers shortly before seeing him.

Ibrahim gave a 30-minute lecture on the need for developing countries to develop their own pharmaceutical industries but gave no details of what exactly the plant would produce.

Many of the visiting journalists interpreted his lecture as intended to make sure the sun had set when the buses set off for the 10-minute drive around the production area.

Libyan guides tried to prevent photographers and camera crews from filming the Thais.

"They seemed to be being taken back to their camp at the end of the day's work," said Mr Wright.

About 50 of the Thai workers were in a large bus. The others were in two small shipping containers "literally on top of each other."

Another journalist, asked how the Thai workers were being treated, said: "It's common throughout the Gulf to see Asian workers being herded around like that".

Although the journalists' visit to the factory was intended to support Libyan claims that the factory is not designed to produce chemical weapons, the trip amounted to a view from one km (half a mile) away followed by a quick drive around the outside in pitch darkness.

Journalists were not allowed inside the plant and could see little from the outside.

On their return to Tripoli, the Libyan capital, the journalists, including Mr Wright, were given 40 minutes to pack their bags, check out of the hotel and leave the country.

Some journalists who went to the site with open minds said they came away convined of US allegations that the plant was designed to produce poison gases for military use.

Diplomats in Tripoli said that, given the world interest in the Rabta plant, it was proably Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who decided how much of it the journalists should see.

Cypriot House President Visits Al-Rabitah

NC1001075589 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, chairman of the Cypriot Socialist Party, EDEK, and president of the House of Representatives, and his delegation paid a visit last evening to the Al-Rabitah medical factory in Gharyar. He addressed the masses of the Yafran people's congresses who marched to the medical factory in Al-Rabitah and held an urgent session.

In his speech, Dr Lissaridhis asserted that all peaceloving peoples support the Libyan Arab people and are ready to stand by them in defense. He called on all the peoples of the world to come to the Al-Rabitah factory to see the families who are staging a sit-in there and who are bent on defending their achievements.

The manager of the Al-Rabitah factory and the secretary of the people's committee in the Al-Jabal al-Gharbi municipality met with Dr Lissaridhis and his delegation yesterday evening. During the meeting, which was held in the main office of the Al-Rabitah factory, the Cypriot delegation was briefed on the objectives of the factory's production of medicines, their volume and types. The Cypriot delegation visited the various sections of the factory which house sophisticated medical equipment.

The Cypriot delegation expressed admiration of this industrial edifice which will enable the Libyan Arab people to achieve self-sufficiency in the field of medicine.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed by DER SPIEGEL

AU0901122889 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 9 Jan 89 p 94

["Excerpts" from an interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Italian journalist Olga Bisera in Libya "before the most recent crisis"—"We Do not Trust Foreigners"]

[Text] Bisera: It was easier to climb Kilimanjaro than to get into your country. Why?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Libyans do not really trust foreigners, especially if they come from the West.

Bisera: The abolition of prisons, the reforms—is this the new Al-Qadhdhafi that is presenting himself to the world?

Al-Qadhdhafi: If you want to put it that way, yes. The people's congresses are currently specifying the reforms and passing corresponding laws.

Bisera: Col al-Qadhdhafi, why have you suddenly turned into a philanthropist? Is there a link between the perestroyka pursued by your Soviet friends and the change of the political course in Libya?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, you are completely wrong. As a matter of fact, everything that has happened in Libya has influenced events in the Soviet Union because Gorbachev is acting in a way that corresponds to our Green Book.

Bisera: Really?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Certainly. Because now there is the possibility that the Russian Government will open itself up to the people, that it will turn toward the people, and this corresponds to our system, the Jamahiriyah, and not to rigid Marxism.

Bisera: Are you prepared to question your style of leadership as well?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We do not take spontaneous decisions; we follow the Third Universal Theory, as outlined in the Green Book. We firmly believe that these principles will not only change our country but also the rest of the world.

Bisera: In the Soviet Union, perestroyka refers mainly to the dramatic revision of the most recent history. Do you share this view?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, because this is only the result of the correct application of Marxism-Leninism in the Soviet Union. Marxism is not a Russian theory, and in addition to that, the conditions for a revolution did not exist in 1917. Gorbachev simply wants to correct the mistake that was made in 1917; that means that he is in agreement with the Third Universal Theory. Our revolution is the result of a theory that summarizes all experiences of mankind.

Bisera: Have relations between the Soviet Union and Libya remained unchanged following the meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan—and following the U.S. attacks on Tripoli and Banghazi?

Al-Qadhdhafi: They have undoubtedly undergone a positive development. This was the result of this imperialist attack on a small country and on our children who were murdered while they were asleep.

Bisera: What about U.S. allegations that a chemical weapons plant is being built in Libya?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The United States has allowed Israel to build the nuclear bomb and 4,000 missiles. The Israelis are producing chemical weapons with the permission of the same Americans who by no means threaten to destroy their factories. We, however, only want to build a pharmaceutical factory.

Bisera: Would you be willing to have it inspected by foreign engineers and experts to verify that?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Why not? The foreign ambassadors are also welcome to attend the opening of the plant.

'Concern' Expressed Over Gulf Situation

NC0901073889 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] A source in the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has made the following statement:

In his speech on the occasion of Army Day, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn spoke about the dangerous situation in the Gulf region resulting from the military buildup.

The Great Jamahiriyah expresses its concern over the possibility of the deterioration and explosion of the situation between Iraq and Iran, in the wake of the cease-fire agreement and the favorable atmosphere that had been created for the establishment of peace and stability in the countries of the region.

The Great Jamahiriyah is closely following the situation. It has decided to contact the parties concerned in a bid to prevent any incidents which might torpedo the peace process.

PLO's Muragha Departs Tripoli After Visit

LD1001100389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli 10 Jan (JANA)—Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli last night following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Opposition Front Denies Training Antiregime Force

PM1001111589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 89 p1

[Unattributed report: "Training of Anti-Libya Force Denied"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has denied reports emanating from some circles in the West, which it described as suspect, claiming that the front was equipping and training a military force in a number of Central African states with the support and supervision of the United States and Israel with the aim of overthrowing the Libyan regime.

The front reaffirmed its repudiation of these rumors which, it said, were tendentious and meant to undermine the front and its aims.

Sudan

Government To Continue Until Talks Conclude

EA0901160089 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stressed that the government would continue in its present form until the parties have completed their evaluation of the situation and until the current consultations were concluded.

Meanwhile, investigations have confirmed that contacts were continuing between the leaders of the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party to agree on an acceptable formula for (?agreement) on implementation of the peace initiative.

Also a draft statement, to be more satisfactory to the DUP and to be issued by the prime minister, has been prepared and submitted to Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani for his opinion.

Military Chief Warns Troops Against Coup Attempts

EA0901201289 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The commander in chief has warned officers and soldiers against military coups and explained their dangers during a meeting with the officers and men of the Khartoum north military zone.

Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, Armed Forces commander in chief, denied any relationship between the briefing tours he made recently to the military units in the capital and the recent coup attempt.

After his meeting yesterday with State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani, he said in a statement reported by (?SUNA) that the object of those meetings was to explain the commander in chief's plan and what had been implemented during the last 3 months, with emphasis on the security of the Armed Forces and the necessity to ensure and safeguard the democratic system.

On the security situation in Darfur, the commander in chief said that security is stable in the region and that the Ibn 'Umar forces are now inside Chadian territory.

The Armed Forces had directly supervised their repatriation and Darfur Region is now free from all foreign troops.

He stressed that the armed forces which entered Darfur Region recently were confronted by the Sudanese Armed Forces and forced to flee.

The comamnder in chief also warned, during a meeting he held with the commanding officers, noncommissioned officers and men of the Khartoum north military zone, that military coups weaken the upper and lower echelons of the Armed Forces and distract them from their main affairs.

Coups are also considered a violation of the Constitution and a breach of the charter for the defense of democracy.

His excellency talked about the General Command's plan to train all the ground, naval, and Air Force units of the People's Armed Forces.

He spoke about what had already been achieved and what is expected to be achieved in the coming 3 months.

He dealt with the conditions of the Armed Forces in light of the present democratic situation and the support being given to the Armed Forces by the people and their political leaders.

His excellency the chairman of the State Council was briefed by the commander in chief about the condition of the Armed Forces, particularly the units in the national capital.

He also briefed him about the results of his recent visit to Iraq.

Red Cross To Airlift Food to Malakal 6 Jan

EA0601155389 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jan (SUNA)—The International Red Cross Committee will today commence the airlifting of food supplies to famine-affected citizens in Malakal town (capital of Upper Nile Province).

Transport Minister and Acting Minister of Relief and Refugees Affairs Aldo Ajo Deng said the Red Cross Committee is scheduled to airlift daily 18 tonnes of foodstuff as of today (Friday) adding that the steamers in Kosti had been directed to (?sail) for Malakal to relieve citizens there.

Regarding the situation in other southern regions the minister said the delivery of food items from Khartoum, Nairobi and [words indistinct] continuing.

He added that the government had agreed to provide the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) areas with foodstuffs in (?accordance) with the agreement signed earlier with the International Red Cross Committee.

Western Sahara

Polisario Issues Statement on Talks With Morocco

NC0901161689 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Algiers, Jan 9 (AFP)—First-ever meetings last week between Polisario Front Leaders and Morocco's King Hassan II have opened the way to a "complete and definitive accord" ending their 13-year-old conflict over the Western Sahara, the front announced here Monday.

In a statement issued after a special session of Polisario's top Executive Committee on Sunday, the front said the talks at Marrakesh in Morocco should lead to "the active phase" of a peace process backed by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Both parties could "move on, hand in hand, to a free and fair referendum on self-determination among the people of the Western Sahara," the statement said, adding that "serious and responsible dialogue" had replaced the "language of destruction, hatred had given way to brotherhood" and "war to peace."

Polisario Front 'number two' Bachir Mustapha Sayyed led a senior delegation in Marrakesh last Wednesday and Thursday in breakthough talks with King Hassan and with top Moroccan cabinet ministers.

It was the delegation's first visit to Morocco since the desert war over the former Spanish Sahara began in 1976.

But Monday's Polisario statement, like terse confirmations of the talks from Moroccan officials, gave no details of the Marrakesh meetings, which came as a U.N. special envoy was awaited in the region to review means of implementing a ceasefire and a referendum in the territory.

The statement simply said that King Hassan had adopted a "constructive and courageous position" and thanked Morocco for its "warmth and hospitality" to the delegation, which included ministers in the Polisario-proclaimed government of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (S.A.D.R.), exiled here. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Defense Minister: MiG Downings 'Unjustifiable'

JN0901152389 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
8 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Kuwait's Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has said that Kuwait will maintain "maximum alert and vigilance" until Iraq and Iran sign a peace treaty.

In an interview with a local Arabic daily, Shaykh Nawwaf also said that the Gulf states want to have a role in UN peace efforts to end the Gulf conflict.

The minister said the GCC states are "partners in peace" and want to remove all tensions from the region.

Shaykh Nawwaf also said Kuwait will go ahead with plans to buy more weapons to bolster its defence capability. He said the latest weapons are being bought from different suppliers whom he described as "some of the biggest arms manufacturers."

The weapons requirements arose due to the growth of the Army and efforts to make it more efficient. He praised the Army's efficiency and said: "The strength of the armed forces does not depend on the quantity of weapons but on the capability of soldiers to use them."

Shaykh Nawwaf praised the cooperation on arms between Egypt and Kuwait and said: "We seek to encourage and develop military production in Egypt because it is an Arab nation."

Shaykh Nawwaf described as "fruitful and constructive" the outcome of a recent visit to the Soviet Union by the chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Army.

"The visit will help boost military cooperation between the two countries," he said but denied that the visit was aimed specifically a signing new arms contracts with the Soviet Union.

He also said Kuwait is expanding its naval forces. "The Navy will be provided with the latest equipment and the expansion programme will be completed within three or four years. [no closing quotemarks as published]

Commenting on Kuwait's stand on peace in the region, the defence minister said the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran "exhausted the two countries and destroyed the security and peace system in the Gulf."

He called on Iraq and Iran to "work together and restore stability and security in the region to enable the countries to revive their economies."

He criticised as dangerous and unjustifiable the shooting down of two Libyan warplanes by U.S. jets.

"The shooting down of two Libyan jet fighters by the U.S. Navy is an unjustifiable dangerous action," he said.

"A superpower like the United States should have sought to maintain peace in the region instead of venturing into confrontations that jeopardize world peace and security."

PDRY

Muhsin Receives PLO's Salah Khalaf

EA0701205489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Jan 89

[text] Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, met at his office this morning with a Palestinian delegation led by brother Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad—member of the Fatah Central Committee. The delegation is currently visiting Democratic Yemen.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the victories scored by the Palestinian people on the way to regaining their legitimate rights, as well as the continuing courageous uprising in the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist occupation.

The meeting also discussed the latest political developments in the Arab and international arenas and relations between the YSP and Fatah and ways of strengthening and developing them.

During the meeting, Comrade Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin gave a full briefing on the successes achieved and problems encountered by our country in its efforts toward the goal of realizing revolutionary structures for our new Yemeni society.

He stressed the success of our country under the YSP's leadership in strengthening its role and strong position within the framework of the revolutionary struggle of the Arab national liberation movement.

Brother Muhsin stressed the principled and consistent stand of the PDRY in its support for the Palestinian Arab people under the PLO's leadership in their fight to end Israeli occupation and win the right to return and self-determination.

In this regard, he pointed out that the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state is an important historic step along the road of regaining the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

The worldwide support for this proclaimed state and its recognition has confirmed, in a manner that leaves no room for doubt, the justice of the cause of the Palestinian people.

For his part, brother Abu Iyad praised the successes and gains of the progressive experiment in the PDRY and the joint unification steps between the two parts of Yemen.

He expressed his appreciation for the sincere support given by our country to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian revolution. He praised the scope of the development of relations between the YSP and Fatah.

The meeting was attended by brothers Abbas Zaki, director general of international relations [word indistinct] of the PLO, and Muhammad Abu Shanab, PLO representative in Aden.

Al-'Attas Receives Khalaf

EA0801210489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, met at his office in the Presidium with brother Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

During the meeting, besides current Arab and international developments and other issues of common interest, they reviewed military relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, and particularly the continuation of the Palestinian Arab uprising in the occupied territories, Palestinian political moves in the international arena, and the expansion of support for the establishment of the Palestinian national state with its capital in Jerusalem.

Brother al-'Attas reiterated the PDRY's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their legitimate national right to determine their own destiny and the building of their independent state on their national soil.

He hailed, with pride the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their confrontation with the various brutal repressive methods of the occupying Zionists.

For his part, brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] expressed the pride of the Palestinian revolution in its relations with the Yemeni revolution and expressed appreciation for the stands of Democratic Yemen in support of the Palestinian people's struggle and the decisions of the Palestine National Council. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Report of Payment to Syrian President Denied

LD0901161389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1512 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Jan (SPA)—The French magazine "LE POINT" published a story in its issue number 850 of 2 January entitled Al-Asad bargains, which said that during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of 13-15 December, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad bargained his acceptance of Egypt's return to the Arab League for a huge financial compensation of $800 million, and so on.

A responsible source has told SPA: The Kingdom denied a similar story on 24 December 1988 saying that it is without foundation.

The source added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia once again reaffirms that its relations with fraternal Syria were never built upon materialism, but are founded upon joint cooperation, continuous consultation, and mutual respect for all that is to the benefit of the Arab motherland and furthers its cause of destiny.

Yemen Arab Republic

'Arafat Arrives To Discuss Palestinian Affairs

JN0901162289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Sanaa before noon today on a several-day visit to our country. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told SABA' upon arrival that he will brief President 'Abdallah Salih on the Palestinian developments since the last PNC session in Algiers and the Geneva UN session as well as the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

He declared that the Palestinian revolution in the occupied Arab land against the Zionist entity will be pursued despite all of the brutality employed by Israel to quench it.

'Arafat expressed his and the Palestinian people's pride in the principled, sincere stand of the YAR's people and political leadership under President Salih alongside their Palestinian mujahidin in the occupied land.

On hand to see 'Arafat at the airport were Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member, and Jamal 'Arafat, the ambassador of the Palestine state in Sanaa.

Confers With President Salih

JN0901133489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman.

They discussed recent Palestinian developments against the backdrop of Arab and international efforts to promote an international Mideast peace conference with the paricipation of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

They also talked about recent Arab and international developments as well as brotherly militant ties between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Brother 'Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] briefed his brother the president leader on the progress of Palestinian moves on the Arab and international fronts aimed at giving momentum to the Mideast peace process and furthering the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinians.

The brother leader secretary general reiterated the YAR's absolute support and backing for the Palestinian people and their valiant popular revolution.

President Salih emphasized the importance of intensifying Arab support for the Palestinian revolution so it can pursue the just, legitimate struggle toward attaining Palestinian inalienable rights and confronting the fascist Zionist practices that resort to the most gruesome methods of terror and destruction against unarmed Palestinians in the occupied land.

Brother Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani was present at the meeting.

PLO's Salah Khalaf Arrives; Meets President

JN0501150689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today brother Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member.

They discussed developments in the situations in the Palestinian and Arab arenas in general in light of Arab developments and growing world support for the independent Palestinian state proclaimed by the PNC in Algiers last year.

Brother Abu Iyad briefed the brother president on the details of the Palestinian move on the international level aiming to provide support for the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

He also briefed the president on the Zionist occupation authorities' bestial practices of repression against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories to confront the valiant popular revolution waged by the Palestinian people.

Discussion also touched on a number of issues of interest to the Arab nation and the militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

The brother president hailed the Palestinian Arab people's splendid steadfastness and heroic struggle against the toughest measures of Zionist repression and torture against defenseless children, women, and old men who seek freedom, independence, and an end to Zionist occupation.

He affirmed our country's continued unlimited support for the Palestinian revolution and the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for the sake of gaining their legitimate national rights under the PLO—their sole, legitimate representative.

Brother Abu Iyad expressed the Palestinian revolution's pride in the firm principled stands of our country—president, government, and people—and varied and distinguished support for the Palestinian revolution, crowned with the mixture of Yemeni blood with Palestinian blood in the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist occupation.

The meeting was attended by brothers Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member, and 'Abd al-Hamid al-Haddi, Standing Committee member.

The meeting was also attended by 'Abbas Zaki, head of the PLO foreign relations committee; Jamal 'Arafat, Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa; and Colonel Abu Hamid, commander of the Sabra and Shatila camp in Sanaa.

Brother Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, arrived in Sanaa this morning accompanied by brother 'Abbas Zaki, official in charge of Fatah foreign relations, on a visit of several days to our country. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0701152189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, Fatah's Central Committee member, left Sanaa today, following a several-day visit to our country.

In a statement to SABA', Abu Iyad said that he found President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih fully understanding and supportive of all of the Palestinian moves and the blessed Palestinian uprising, the decisive factor in all of the Palestinian successes since the most recent PNC session.

His presence in our country, added Salah Khalaf, made him feel the true Arab kinship between the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples. He noted our Yemeni people's supportive stand toward the Palestinian people in their 1982 plight and their playing host to Palestinian Revolution Forces and the Palestinian leadership. Khalaf said such stands by the Yemeni people and leadership led by President Salih will not be forgotten.

On hand to see him off were brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbaghi, Consultative Assembly member, secretary general of the Standing Committee; and brother Jamal 'Arafat, the ambassador in Sanaa of the State of Palestine.

Reportage on Visit by UK's Sir Geoffrey Howe

Arrives for Visit 8 Jan

JN0801143189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] His Excellency Geoffrey Howe, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Sanaa this morning on an official 3-day visit. During the visit, he will hold talks on bilateral cooperation with a number of brother officials.

He was received by brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; and Mark Marshall, UK ambassador in Sanaa.

Attends Foreign Ministry Talks

JN0801193289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Official Yemeni-British talks were held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1100 today under brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs.

Talks dealt with exchanging viewpoints on bilateral relations, aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries, and numerous regional and international issues, the most important of which are the Palestine question, the Middle East situation, and the peace efforts by the United Nations to achieve a just, comprehensive solution to the Gulf war in light of Security Council Resolution No 598.

Talks also dealt with the issues of world peace, disarmament, and the Paris conference on chemical weapons. Attending the talks on the Yemeni side were brothers Sharaf al-Sa'idi, Foreign Ministry assistant under secretary; Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayb, our country's ambassador to the UK; and other Foreign Ministry officials. They were attended on the British side by (Bifid Boss), British Foreign Office assistant under secretary; Mark Marshall, British ambassador in Sanaa; and the delegation accompanying the guest. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement to SABA' news agency, the British secretary of state voiced pleasure at visiting our country. He explained that he looks forward to an expanded discussion during the visit of the regional issues with an active, strong British participation regarding issues of mutual interest.

He pointed out that the Yemeni-British relationship has never reached the same level attained today and that in the past 18 years both sides have worked to expand relations between the two countries. Both sides will also work to find ways to expand and promote these relations, he added.

He voiced appreciation for our country's wise foreign policy. He pointed out that his talks in the countries he visited last week have increased his belief that there is a genuine desire in the region to achieve peace and live safely. Signs of this desire appeared in the past few days.

Concluding his statement, he said his visit to our country is an indicator and proof of the growing, unique bilateral relations. The visit aims to promote these relations on all levels, he added.

Confers With President Salih

JN0901163689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

They discussed Arab and international developments, notably the Palestinian question against the backdrop of the declaration of the Palestinian state and brother Yasir 'Arafat's Geneva address as well as the Gulf situation following the Iraq-Iran ceasefire and their peace talks. They also talked about relations between the YAR and the UK and how to foster them as well as a number of issues of common concern.

The brother president expressed satisfaction with the progressing relations between our country and the UK. The brother leader voiced satisfaction with the present stand of the British Government on the Palestine question.

He hoped the British Government will take more positive steps and spearhead a European drive to recognize legitimate Palestinian rights of self-determination and statehood, considering that Britain has a historical and humanitarian responsibility for the tragedy of the Palestinian Arab people and the oppression and suppression they are being subjected to by the Zionist occupation forces.

He stressed that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that the British Government has a potential role in speeding up the convening of an international Mideast peace conference to devise a fair, permanent peace in the area that would assure the inalienable, national rights of the Palestinian Arab people including self-determination and statehood led by the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

The president noted the terrorist practices of the racist Zionist entity against the Palestinian people and Arab nation. He urged that the major powers denounce such practices and ensure the protection of the Palestinian people who are being subjected daily to the ugliest methods of oppression, repression, and coercion that run counter to the most basic international conventions and human rights.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, and our London ambassador attended the meeting. On the UK side, the meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Sanaa and Sir (Bifid Boss), assistant undersecretary at the British Foreign Office.

Talks With Al-Iryani

JN0901192689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, Standing Committee member, last night gave a banquet for British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his delegation, attended by brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, a number of ministers, Consultative Assembly members, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Following the banquet, Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani gave a speech welcoming Sir Geoffrey and his delegation. [passage omitted]

The deputy prime minister expressed our country's concern of the region being kept a focus of conflicts and dangerous confrontations, pointing out that the most serious, gravest, and most tragic of these conflicts is the situation in the occupied Arab land, specifically in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Addressing Sir Geoffrey Howe, Dr al-Iryani said: We in the YAR are confident that the international community will not buy the intransigent contention of the Zionist entity and its sympathizers that an independent Palestinian state will lead to the destruction of Israel which is equipped with the most up-to-date weapons and is the only nuclear power in the Middle East.

We are also confident that the international community will not turn a blind eye to the continuing torment and suffering of the women, old men, and children who are living under the yoke of the brutality of Israeli occupation.

The deputy prime minister added:

It is common knowledge that the Palestinian blood has been spilled since the beginning of the century. However, the advanced technology of modern telecommunication has given the world community unprecedented access to Israeli atrocities against unarmed children.

Dr al-Iryani concluded by saying: It is time the international community put its foot down about Palestinian blood and said that we will not sit idly by as it is shed. This is because we cannot afford to see it spilled. And her majesty's government has a special moral responsibility to see that the Palestinian people exercise their self-determination and attain independence.

Sir Geoffrey then gave a speech praising relations between the YAR and UK which he noted is progressing on the economic, agricultural, and commercial fronts and which is centuries old. He expressed hope that his YAR visit will mark a brick in building bilateral cooperation.

The British foreign secretary urged the Zionist entity to respond to the Palestinian peace initiative stressing that all of the parties concerned must seize this opportunity.

He reminded the Israelis that they themselves have experienced wars and their tragedies and that taking the path of peace does not cost anything whereas wars produce destruction and untold tragedies.

Sir Geoffrey said in conclusion that he hopes that efforts to bring peace between Iraq and Iran will culminate in success.

Makes Statement, Leaves

JN1001134389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe left Sanaa today after a 3-day visit to our country during which he met with Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to SABA' before leaving, Howe described his talks with the president leader and a number of officials as useful and good. He said that the Yemeni and British sides decided to turn over a new leaf in their bilateral relations.

At the end of his statement, he voiced his admiration for the progress achieved by our country in various areas. He also expressed his thanks for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during the visit.

He was seen off by 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; Mark Marshall, the UK ambsassador in Sanaa; and the embassy straff.

Ramadan Returns From Visit to Egypt 9 Jan

JN0901174389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad at noon today at the end of a 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit, Ramadan chaired the Iraqi side to the meetings of the third [as heard] session of the Iraqi-Egyptian joint higher committee.

Makes Statement on Talks

JN0901202789 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 9, INA—Member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan, and the delegation accompanying him, returned to Baghdad today concluding a visit to Egypt [which] lasted three days. During the visit he led the Iraqi side to meetings of the 3rd [as received] session of the Iraqi-Egyptian higher joint committee.

In a statement to INA, Mr Ramadan said he had conveyed greetings of President Saddam Husayn to President Husni Mubarak and his excellency's appreciation of the intimate and brotherly relations between them. He also referred that President Husni Mubarak asked him to convey greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his appreciation of the relations between the two countries and keenness on making the exemplary and advanced relations.

The first deputy premier added that he had discussed with the Egyptian president the bilateral relations and significance of creating new fields to raise them to larger horizons in service of the two sisterly countries.

Mr Ramadan clarified that discussion also dealt with the current Arab situation, peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, the importance of holding an urgent Arab summit, means of supporting the Palestinian state, and the situation in Lebanon and how to tackle it in protection of unity of its people and will of its sons away from guardianship and external interference in its affairs.

He described results of meetings of the joint higher committee as big, where there were signed protocols for bilateral relations in industrial, agricultural and irrigation, transport and communications, tourism and information and scientific research fields.

The discussions also covered increase of trade-exchange and expansion of cooperation in judicial, financial and banking fields and Egyptian workers in Iraq.

He also confirmed that future of the Iraqi-Egyptian relations would be prosperous because its beginnings were sound and based on mutual understanding, objective research and the genuine desire to reach a distinguished and advanced standard in bilateral relations whose benefit would cover the Arab arena.

GDR Official Arrives on Visit 9 Jan

JN0901211189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2034 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—Gerald Goetting, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of State and deputy president of the People's Chamber, arrived here tonight leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

Following his arrival, the GDR official told INA that he will hold talks with senior Iraqi officials dealing with bilateral relations, the most important developments in the region, and international issues of mutual interest. Gerald Goetting is accompanied on the visit by his wife.

New Labor Minister, Governor Sworn In

JN0801193989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Umid Midhat Mubarak, labor and social affairs minister, was sworn in before President leader Saddam Husayn this morning to assume his post. Diya' Yahya al-'Alami, governor of the Salah al-Din Governorate, was also sworn in before President leader Saddam Husayn this morning to assume his new post. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Local Government 'Adnan Dawud Salman.

Peace Plan Presented to Shultz, Shevardnadze

TA1001091889 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 10 Jan 89 p 1

["Exclusive" DEPTH news service report from Jerusalem by Giyora Shamis]

[Text] THE NATION has obtained draft documents of the new government's Middle East initiative, which includes Israel's first expression of willingness to negotiate an ultimate solution for the territories. The documents were presented to US Secretary of State George Shultz in Paris on Sunday by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Arens also presented some parts of the plan to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in their tete-a-tete later on Sunday.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the incoming Bush administration have agreed to discuss this plan in March, when Shamir is to visit Washington. The Shultz-Arens meeting was the first in-depth discussion about the new scheme between the two allies. The new elements in the plan, revealed here for the first time, include proposals to limit the period of Palestinian autonomy from five years, as set in the Camp David Accords, to three years, and to open negotiations on post-autonomy as soon as the autonomy is introduced. Other points in the plan are:

— The two superpowers will host a conference on Middle East peace.

— Israel will negotiate directly with Palestinians elected in a local poll in the territories.

— In the post-autonomy negotiations, Israel will accept a confederation with Jordan and the Palestinians.

— Both Jordan and the autonomous Palestinians will have access to Israeli ports.

— The economies of the three entities will be tied together in a Common Market type of framework covering trade, currencies and transportation.

— A special governing body will be set up to administer water and land rights among the three entities.

It appears from the contents of these secret documents that Shamir is still not prepared to talk directly to the Palestine Liberation Organization, but he is willing to negotiate with PLO-affiliated Palestinian leaders in the territories. Shamir is well aware that the Americans in their talks with the PLO in Tunis are not recognizing the legitimacy of the PLO but are merely engaged in a dialogue. He wants something along the same lines. Israeli officials are about to launch a high-visibility political and propaganda campaign to press for full American backing of the initiative. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, now in Paris with Arens, is to lay the groundwork in Washington next week for Arens' February visit to the US. Incoming Secretary of State James Baker has said that he will not meet with Netanyahu at this time, and it is not yet clear whether Baker will welcome a visit by Arens so early in the new administration. If not, Arens undoubtedly will accompany Shamir in the March visit.

Diplomatic sources noted that Shamir is pursuing a two-pronged approach, offering the Soviets a major role in the coming negotiations. In recent days, there has been a marked upsurge of diplomatic activity between Israel and the East Bloc. Relations with the USSR, China, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland and East Germany have all been upgraded or improved.

Shamir on Peace Plan

TA1001093789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that at the moment Israel does not have a detailed peace plan ready to be submitted to any international forum, but its concepts are clear and acceptable to all members of the government. Israel is prepared to enter direct negotiations under the aegis of the superpowers or the United Nations, under the condition that they do not interfere with the content of the negotiations.

He commended Israel's experience with the United States, but noted that the European Community had taken an unbalanced position through its support of the PLO and a Palestinian state. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Mr Shamir was speaking at the opening session of the annual joint dialogue between the European Parliament and the Knesset in Jerusalem.

The head of the European delegation stressed that its very arrival in Israel attests to the commitment of the European Parliament and Community to Israel's safe existence.

Our correspondent points out that the prime minister's remarks are seen as a reaction to a report carried in this morning's issue of THE NATION, a Jerusalem-based [as heard] newspaper, claiming to have obtained a draft of Israel's peace plan. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD on Peace Plan

JN0901070689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Jan (WAKH)—The details of an Israeli plan to counter the Palestinian peace plan declared by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva were published in Abu Dhabi today. Today's Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD says that the Israeli plan provides that the United States work to make the UK and France adopt the Israeli viewpoint.

The plan also provides that the USSR and PRC restore their diplomatic relations with Israel as a condition for embarking on negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

Citing informed Egyptian diplomatic sources, AL-ITTIHAD says that Cairo received the details of the Israeli plan to counter the PLO's peace moves.

The Israeli plan contains six [as received] points, including the following:

Israel prefers that the United States and the USSR sponsor the negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

The United States guarantees that the British and French stands are identical to the U.S. and Israeli stand if the negotiations are to be held under the supervision of the five permanent Security Council members.

The intensification of coordination between Washington and Tel Aviv to discuss the PLO's connection with the acts of terrorism before agreeing on the participation of Palestinian personalities, who are accepted by the PLO, within a Jordanian delegation in the talks between Jordan and Israel.

The restoration of full diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel and opening the doors for direct emigration to Israel to Soviet Jews to guarantee the effectiveness and objectivity of the Soviet role in settling the Middle East problem.

The United States should link its technical assistance to modernize the Chinese Army with Beijing's restoration of its diplomatic relations with Israel and the adoption of a neutral stand during its participation in sponsoring the talks between the Arabs and Israel.

Soviet Message Urges 'Gesture Toward Palestinians'

TA0901111489 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Jan 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, Tamar Golan, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has transmitted a message to Israel in which it says it now expects Israel to make a gesture toward the Palestinians as a precondition for continuing the process of tightening bilateral relations. This was disclosed last night by a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office.

According to the source, the Soviet Union has agreed to institutionalize ties with Israel. As part of this process, it is allowing the Israeli delegation to move back into the former embassy building and permitting it to deal with political matters as well. This is part of the Soviet effort to win back Israel's faith in anticipation of the start of negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, including the Palestinians, within the framework of an international event.

The source explained that the Soviet Union is trying to strengthen its status in the region and that while working toward improving relations with Israel, it will do its best to effect a change in Israel's attitude toward the regional conflict. [passage omitted]

'Wide-Ranging' Accord, Ties With Hungary Foreseen

TA0901123889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Israel and Hungary have signed a wide-ranging agricultural memorandum of understanding. At a news conference at the Knesset, Israel's Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz and his Hungarian counterpart Jeno Vancsa spoke of the establishment of full diplomatic ties between Budapest and Jerusalem. From the Knesset, David Ze'ev reports:

The memorandum of understanding culminates a 9-day visit by the Hungarian agriculture minister. While he and his Israeli counterpart Avraham Katz-'Oz spoke of the economic and agrotechnological advancement the memorandum will create, the political undertones were clear.

Asked about statements that Budapest and Jerusalem would soon establish full diplomatic ties, Minister Jeno Vancsa said it was only his personal opinion, but he believes they would be established within a few months—this despite the threats from Palestinian groups against Hungarian Government offices in that country if such moves continue. For the details Minister Vancsa told reporters at today's news conference to redirect their questions to the country's foreign minister.

Minister Katz-'Oz called the memorandum of understanding a new horizon in relations with the East in this first trip to Israel by an Hungarian minister. Katz-'Oz said Hungary was a country of extensive agriculture and that Israel was facing many of the same essential issues that had to be approached.

Custom tariffs will be reduced to the extent possible, and the two countries would generally export their technology to other parts of the world, including the United States and the USSR. The Hungarian minister called his trip to kibbutzim and moshavim unforgettable and said his country has much to learn.

Shamir Meets European Parliament's Lord Plumb

TA0901131689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that so far the European community has demonstrated a pro-Palestinian attitude. It is therefore difficult to conceive of the Europeans as participants in the political process in the Middle East. The prime minister made these remarks in a meeting with Lord Henry Plumb, chairman of the

European Parliament. Mr Shamir added that Europe should distinguish between the economic and the political aspects of its relations with Israel.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister asked the European Parliament chairman, who is leaving for Amman, to tell King Husayn that Israel has good intentions toward Jordan. Israel wishes to see Jordan assuming an active role in the peace process.

Urges Weapons Ban

TA1001125489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Speaking in the Knesset on the occasion of the 14th annual dialogue with the European Parliament delegation to Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that an agreement must be reached on the prohibition of nonconventional weapons in the region. In the prime minister's opinion, an agreement of this kind should forbid chemical weapons and, if possible, nuclear weapons as well. He added that all countries in the region should be required to sign the accord.

Rabin Scolds European Delegates

TA1001121889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin used very assertive language in addressing a delegation of the European Parliament. Do not teach us about morals, he told the European delegates. There may be an argument as to whether deportations are compatible with international law, but there is no arguing the legitimacy of capital punishment—and we, in Israel, in all the years of our existence, have executed only one person: Adolf Eichmann.

The defense minister went on to scold the delegates: IDF soldiers would never open fire at a child throwing a stone. Rubber bullets and tear gas are tools to counter violence that are also used by you.

What is the difference between you and a Syrian defense minister? Rabin was asked. Rabin replied furiously: Had I been a Syrian defense minister, Nabulus and Ramallah would have been wiped off the face of the earth along with the intifada [uprising].

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 10 January adds: "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has accused the European Community of paying lip service to the cause of the Palestinian refugees while failing to contribute financial aid to their rehabilitation." Rabin went on to say that "all the improvements achieved in the refugee camps are from Israeli money, from the efforts of the Palestinians themselves, and limited aid from the United Nations. Rabin promised if the violence in the territories ends most of the troops serving there would be withdrawn. He asked the gathering why no Palestinian state was established when the Arab countries controlled Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Was the Palestinian problem not the heart of the Middle East conflict then also? he asked. On chemical weapons, the defense minister said at least four Arab countries are capable of producing nerve gas and other chemical weapons, and also have delivery systems with warheads."]

Earlier, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was asked by a European Parliament delegate why Israel's Mossad should not destroy the chemical warfare plant in Libya. Shamir ignored the question altogether. [passage omitted]

Arens Continues Meetings With Officials in Paris

Meets With France's Dumas

TA0601185889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Roland Dumas, French minister of foreign affairs, will come to Israel in approximately 2 weeks. This was announced this evening at the end of Dumas' session with his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens. Minister Arens said in the meeting that the prime minister may soon announce a new peace initiative, but stressed that moves such as recognition of the PLO would only hinder the process.

The French minister explained that the upgrade of the PLO representation in Paris does not represent recognition of the Palestinian state. [Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1815 GMT on 6 January adds that in the meeting with Dumas "Arens expressed disappointment at France's decision."]

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts points out that the Spanish foreign minister will also arrive in Israel in 10 days on a mission on behalf of the EEC.

To Meet With Mitterrand

TA0801060489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will hold an unscheduled meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand tomorrow. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that at a reception held during the conference on chemical weapons in the Elysee last night, Mitterrand told Arens that he expects to meet him on Monday.

Arens is scheduled to meet with the U.S., USSR, and Egyptian foreign ministers today and tomorrow. Today he will meet with his Turkish counterpart at the latter's request. Last night Arens voiced Israel's dismay over the contacts that will begin in Tunis today between the Netherlands Foreign Ministry and PLO leaders.

Discusses Chemical Weapons

TA0901153289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told a Paris news conference that if and when an international convention is adopted that will oblige all countries to make public their arensals of chemical weapons, Israel's response will be positive. He said that in the meantime Israel has taken all the necessary steps to foil a chemical attack against itself.

Our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts, reports that at noon, Arens met with his FRG counterpart, who handed him an invitation to visit Bonn.

Arens is now meeting with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, and afterward will meet with President Mitterrand.

Tomorrow morning Arens will hold a second meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Meets Rocard, Turkish Minister

TA0901182889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens conferred in Paris today with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard; they discussed issues of common interest for both countries. The French prime minister said that his country is waiting to hear the Israeli position on a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts reports that Minister Arens also met today his Turkish counterpart, and expressed Israel's reservations of his government's decision to recognize the Palestinian state.

Shamir Comments on 'Deterring' Libya

TA0801111189 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 89 p A8

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Excerpt] The importance of deterring a country like Libya from manufacturing gases lies not only in deterring Libya, but mainly with respect to other countries in the Middle East that have already begun, or wish to begin manufacturing chemical weapons. These remarks were made last weekend by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a conversation with Michel Durafour, French civil service and administration reform minister.

The prime minister further said that Israel attaches importance to the international conference on chemical warfare convening in Paris. He leveled criticism at "those European states that applaud terrorist leader Yasir 'Arafat, forgetting that he is nothing but a violent terrorist." [passage omitted]

Left-Wing Knesset Members Leave for Paris

TA1001124389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] A delegation of left-wing Knesset members [MK's] left for Paris this morning to attend an international symposium in which PLO representatives will also participate.

Arye Eli'av and Ora Namir of Labor and Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement set off from Ben-Gurion Airport this morning.

Eli'av told the Voice of Israel this morning he found the Israeli law against contacts with the PLO to be stupid, and he said that within the Labor Alignment and other Knesset parties there is a move to abolish the law. In the French capital already is MAPAM MK Ya'ir Tzaban.

Rabin, Senator on Strategic Cooperation, Mideast

TA0901184789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today met the chairman of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Aid Committee, Patrick Leahy. In that capacity Leahy recommends to the Senate the foreign aid it allocates to various countries, including Israel. In their meeting Rabin and Leahy discussed the strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel, and the security situation in the Middle East in general, and the events in the administered territories over the past year.

'Counterproductive' Howe Appeals Criticized

TA1001111489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jan 89 p 12

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Excerpt] London--Israeli officials here are becoming increasingly aggravated by Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe's concerted public demands for Israel to "respond constructively" to the PLO's moderate stance, Israeli sources said here yesterday.

In Yemen on the penultimate day of his tour of Gulf states, Howe again yesterday pressed the Israeli government and people to "seize the present opportunity" and "test the new PLO positions."

But Israeli sources criticized Howe's campaign, noting that, "if Britain truly wants to contribute, then this is not the way to do it."

One source said: "There is a new government in Israel. Britain has yet to hold in-depth talks with it. Our two countries have friendly relations. So, surely it would be more useful for the British to make their opinions clear in meaningful, private discussions with the government, rather than in a series of press conferences from the heart of the Arab world."

Israeli officials see Howe's stream of appeals to Israel as "an attempt to curry favour with the Arab governments hosting him," said the sources.

"In the long run, though, the foreign secretary's incessant statements can only prove counterproductive to Britain, since Israel is hardly likely to regard Britain as the sort of evenhanded, honest broker which could play a key role in any negotiations." [passage omitted]

Arens Sends Protest to Egypt Over Editorial

TA0301102489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Shim'on Shamir, yesterday submitted an official protest to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs over an editorial in last Friday's AL-AKHBAR that blamed Israel for the Pan Am jumbo explosion.

The protest was drafted as a message from Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to his Egyptian counterpart, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. According to sources in Jerusalem, Arens wrote:

"I was shocked by the outrageous and slanderous insinuations in AL-AKHBAR, a prestigious Egyptian newspaper, tying Israel to the terrorist attack recently perpetrated against the U.S. carrier. I am sure you will agree with me that such an onslaught on my country can only poison the atmosphere, which we both should want to maintain in order to work together not only in the interest of our bilateral relations, but also in order to advance the peace process to which our two nations are sincerely committed."

In addition to the protest, Shamir also conveyed Arens's reply to the congratulatory message 'Abd al-Majid sent on his appointment as foreign minister.

AL-AKHBAR's lead editorial on Friday said that "Israel, which usually tries through such attempts to place the blame on Palestinian or Arab groups, would be the first (to benefit) in the case of the American jumbo (crash), in the hope that the United States will stop talking to the PLO." It added: "It is an inhuman and immoral method which the Mossad would not hesitate to use without any remorse."

Sources in Jerusalem indicated last night that, since last week, the Egyptian press had resumed its attacks on Israel. The sources said this was probably because the Egyptian government assumes that Israel's new government does not intend to change the country's policy on the peace process.

Official Says Egypt Can Direct Newspapers

JN0401135089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] An official Israeli source has stated that the Egyptian Government has succeeded in preventing campaigns in the Egyptian press against a certain Arab state when Egypt was interested in doing so.

Our political correspondent, (Yehudit Budik), says that this statement came in response to a statement made yesterday by an Egyptian official source in which he said that the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, which accused Israel of being behind the blowing up of the American plane, is neither official nor semi-official, according to the Egyptian source.

The official Israeli source added that the Egyptian Government, which asserts that it is concerned with strengthening peace opportunities, can give the necessary directives to the Egyptian media organs to make them call for strengthening peace between Israel and Egypt.

Rabin Renewing Contacts With Non-PLO Arabs

TA0901130489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is continuing his meetings with Palestinians from the territories in a bid to examine the possibilities Israel has for proposing a political initiative that would exclude the PLO. One central issue that was discussed in this latest round of talks was elections for an Arab leadership in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The identity of the people who have met with the defense minister in his Tel Aviv offices has been kept secret so as to prevent any possible harm to them by inhabitants of the territories and the PLO. The risks taken by Rabin's interlocutors have recently grown in light of Yasir 'Arafat's public call on the leaders in the territories not to discuss elections or any other political initiative with Israel that would exclude the PLO.

Rabin is thus resuming a process he had begun during the initial months of the intifada [uprising], during which he met with some 30 prominent figures from the territories whom he saw as "people who are not leaders of the intifada."

Approximately 1 month before the elections, the defense minister terminated these meetings to stop opponents from denigrating the process. Rabin has gradually resumed these contacts now. The purpose of these meetings, as Rabin had explained during the first round, is to work out policy guidelines that would distinguish between the leadership in the territories (as he perceives it) and the PLO as an organization. [passage omitted]

It transpires from various statements the defense minister has made since the elections that the latest developments in the PLO have not changed his mind. Against this backdrop, he is resuming his talks with the traditional, moderate leadership in the territories, while ignoring PLO supporters.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 9 January carries a report by Pinhas 'Inbari on page 2 in which 'Inbari says that "Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin has recently conferred with Palestinians in the territories to discuss political matters. These Palestinians are considered supporters of mainstream Fatah. Among them was Hanna Sinyurah, who has meanwhile departed for the United States where he participated in a joint conference with Labor Party doves, and members of MAPAM, the Citizens Rights Movement, and the PLO."]

IDF Kills 8 'Terrorists' in Security Strip

TA1001151889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Eight terrorists were killed on Saturday night [7 January] in a clash with an IDF unit north of the security strip in Lebanon. Our forces sustained no casualties. Our military correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an IDF unit encountered the terrorist squad in the eastern sector near 'Aramtah. The unit opened fire, killing them.

The Voice of Lebanon radio station reported that the terrorists belonged to Hizballah. They were apparently on their way to extend aid to their fellow Hizballah members in the fighting against Amal.

IDF Cracks Down on Stonethrowers in Territories

TA0401131089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] Soldiers in Nabulus have begun implementing the defence authorities' newly announced policy of cracking down on young stone-throwers by arresting them and fining their parents from NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1,000-1,500.

Nabulus residents report that in the past month children ranging in age from six to 10, as well as teenagers, have been rounded up by troops on suspicion of stone-throwing and taken to military headquarters. Their parents were summoned to the building and ordered to pay fines, on pain of imprisonment, it was claimed.

One man, a member of the Aklik family, who was unable to pay the fine was held for six days before being released and ordered to return with the required sum, residents said.

Soldiers in Jabalyah recently rounded up 74 children and released them after fines were imposed on their parents, a defence source said. He said other methods of exerting pressure will include identity card checks.

The source emphasized that the stone-throwing is the major problem still facing the IDF in the administered territories, and the army has yet to come up with an effective method of combating it. Some 85 percent of all incidents in the areas now involve setting up stone barricades and stone-throwing, he said. Of these, 70 percent involve boys too young to be tried in court.

Forum To Fight Stonethrowing

TA0801141389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] The security system and the IDF will increase their efforts to find ways to fight the phenomenon of stone throwing in the territories, which is viewed as the major violent manifestation of the intifada [uprising]. [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 8 January in a report by Avi Bnayahu on page three adds that the stone throwing "at present constitutes 85 percent of the events in the territories."]

This decision was made in the debate held last Friday by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the first anniversary of the intifada. The debate, which lasted several hours, was attended by the permanent "territories forum," as well as additional representatives of various bodies active in the territories.

The debate participants were briefed by the Central and Southern Command commanders, heads of the Civil Administration, intelligence elements, Shin Bet, and other representatives. Suggestions were raised to impose economic sanctions, mainly to prevent stone throwing and other manifestations of violence. To fight the Palestinians' commercial strikes, it was also proposed to reexamine allowing workers from the territories to leave for jobs in Israel. The proposal was rejected. It seems, however, that the suggestion to impose heavy fines on the parents of stone throwers will be adopted after it is adapted to the circumstances.

Cabinet Discusses Security, Unrest Issues

TA0801115489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron has said that the settlers' hiking expedition near Bayt I'nan in Samaria was conducted without a permit and in contravention of standing procedure. Responding to a question by Minister Ya'aqobi during the Cabinet session, the chief of staff said that the investigation is still in full swing. Nonetheless, it is already clear that the tour was not coordinated and proceeded contrary to the standing procedures.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Sharon asked why firmer steps were not taken against Arabs in the territories who attack Jews. The defense minister replied that the defense establishment does act firmly, but only within the confines of the law. Those who want to break the law should state so outright, he said.

In reply to a question by Sharon regarding the new peace initiative Minister Arens was reportedly promoting during his meetings in Paris, the prime minister said: When a debate is called for, one will be held.

The Cabinet today endorsed the composition of the eight ministerial committees.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 8 January carries a live report by Jack Katzenell on this morning's Cabinet session, adding that "there was a report, of course, on the murder of Edri, the Israeli taxi driver who was killed at Yaqir Junction, and the police believe that the motive for the killing was political, Palestinian nationalism."]

Shomron: PLO-Controlled Groups Inactive

TA1001133689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The chief of staff has said that the IDF does not know whether the terrorist organizations have been ordered to stop their attacks, but that the activities of the terrorist organizations—except for the rejectionist front, such as Ahmad Jibril's organization—have moderated. Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that Lieutenant General Dan Shomron addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Gen Shomron pointed out that organizations under direct PLO control have not been active since November.

The chief of staff reiterated that the IDF does not have a policy of collective punishment in the territories.

West Bankers 'Suffering' From Jordanian Measures

JN0801142789 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 8 Jan 89

[From "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" program by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] The West Bank residents are currently suffering from the toughness and bitterness of the tyrannical measures taken by the Jordanian authorities against them. These measures include hindering the export of olive oil from the West Bank to Arab countries through Jordan and obstructing the passage of other agricultural products from the West Bank and Gaza.

The residents of the territories are suffering deteriorating economic conditions as a result of the incidents. No one in the Arab world is showing concern about their affairs or trying to ease their problems. There is nothing but tons of words uttered by Arab mouths and tongues.

'Arafat promised that he would tackle this problem and work for marketing their products. It is hoped that the Husayn-'Arafat meeting provided the opportunity to solve this crisis.

Demonstrators Riot at Megido Prison 9 Jan

TA0901135589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] A riot took place this afternoon at the entrance to Megido Prison when dozens of family members who arrived there to visit security detainees ran amok. They first cursed the prison guards; soon after that they began throwing stones and wooden planks at them. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a large force of the Valleys District police used tear gas to restrain them. Some 15 people were detained, most of whom are members of the Down With the Occupation protest movement. A senior official of the Valleys District told our correspondent that the possibility that the riot was initiated by members of this organization is being investigated.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew on 9 January at 1330 GMT adds: "The number of those detained in connection with the Megido Prison riot has now reached 50. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that soon after the families of detainees rioted at the prison entrance, they boarded buses; on their way back to Samaria, they continued to throw stones at cars from within the buses. Several vehicles were damaged."]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Official Stabbed in Hospital

TA0801112589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Yusuf Milhim, the appointed secretary of Qalqilyah, was stabbed by unidentified people last night. He was hospitalized in Meir Hospital in Kefar Sava. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Milhim had been hospitalized in Qalqilyah because of illness. His assailants attacked him in that hospital. He is reportedly suffering from moderate wounds.

According to Arab sources, the background for the act is the fear that he was helping the Israeli authorities.

Bomb Explodes Near IDF Patrol

TA0901082889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] A small, homemade bomb exploded last night near the village of Teqoa' in the southern Hebron Hills as an IDF patrol was driving by. No one was hurt and there was no damage. The Army has launched searches. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Further on 8 Jan Incidents

TA0901122189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jan 89 p 10

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At least 16 Arabs were wounded in clashes with the IDF in the territories yesterday in the first day of a 48-hour strike marking the beginning of the 14th month of the intifada [uprising]. [passage omitted]

Petrol bombs were thrown at the house of two associates of Qalqilyah Mayor 'Abd al-Rahman Abu Sunayna with slight damage to property.

In clashes between Palestinians and the IDF, two Palestinians were shot and wounded in Bayt Immar, on the Bethlehem-Hebron road, after young men from the village stoned a Hebron-bound Egged bus. The village was declared a closed zone.

Nine others, most of them teenagers, were shot and wounded in clashes with the IDF in seven West Bank villages. [passage omitted]

Jewish residents in the West Bank reported yesterday that Arabs stoned several Jewish buses and cars, but no Jews were seriously injured. A stone smashed the windshield of a fuel tanker on its way to make a delivery in Hebron.

[Tel Aviv THE NATION in English on 9 January carries a report by Hayim Ben-Yosef on page 2, adding that "last night, Arab sources said that Ahmad Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman, 56, of Kafr al-Dik near Nabulus, died after inhaling tear gas. Army sources say they do not know of the incident."]

Firebombs in Jerusalem, W. Bank

TA0901060489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] In the Gilo neighborhood of southern Jerusalem last night two Molotov cocktails were hurled at an apartment house on Margalit Street. The firebombs exploded, but no one was injured and no damage was caused. Police said they suspect terrorists were responsible.

A Molotov cocktail was also thrown at an Israeli vehicle near the settlement of Ginnot Shomron in Samaria. The firebomb hit the road and the driver, from 'Immanu'el, was not hurt, nor was there any damage.

4 Wounded; Strike Continues

TA0901122889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Excerpts] The disturbances in the territories continued today in accordance with the calls issued by the bodies leading the uprising, which also called on the residents to stage a general strike. In Samaria, four Arab residents were injured by IDF gunfire after stones were thrown at the security forces in the Farah refugee camp. Arab sources claimed the number of injured was higher, but the precise details of the incidents are unavailable at the moment.

The general strike, which was announced yesterday to mark the 13th month of the uprising, continues today. The IDF has taken precautionary measures, including curfews imposed on several refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Today's strike was initiated both by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which supports Fatah. Fatah has recently done its best to coordinate its moves in the uprising with Hamas. This is reflected in leaflet No 32, which was disseminated several days ago. The coordination, however, is not complete.

Violent incidents flared up a few days ago in several Ramallah district villages between Hamas activists, who tried to prevent locals from leaving for work in Israel, and activists of the National Front [as heard], who demanded that the laborers be allowed to leave for their jobs where they make their living. Reports mentioned fistfights and exchanges of blows.

15 Wounded; Schools To Reopen

TA0901204889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] Sources in Judaea and Samaria report some 15 casualties so far in today's unrest. Arab inhabitants report that five people were wounded in the Farah refugee camp in Samaria, four in Kafr al-Dik, one in Bayt Lid—who is in serious condition—and casualties in other locations.

There are reports from the Gaza Strip about two casualties in Khan Yunus and one in Rafah. Like yesterday, there was a general strike today to mark the start of the 14th month of the uprising as called for by leaflet No 32 disseminated this week and in accordance with calls by

PLO leaders. The strike call was joined today by Fatah via the Unified National Command of the Uprising as well as by the Islamic Resistance Movement. This was the reason for the increased casualty toll.

Among the casualties is a youth from the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem. According to Army sources, he was shot while trying to hurl a large block at an IDF soldier.

The strike in the territories was complete, but the Civil Administration said the municipalities and government offices operated normally.

The Civil Administration continues to demolish unlicensed houses and those built on state-owned land. The Civil Administration today demolished two houses in Bayta, one in Khirbat Hazzar, and one in Kafr 'Aqab, all in the Nabulus area. Nevertheless, tomorrow the Civil Administration will permit the opening of schools in the territories.

Studies were canceled for some 10 days to prevent unrest within school grounds. Some 300,000 students return to school tomorrow, and the Civil Administration hopes that they will use their time to study and not be involved in unrest and clashes with soldiers.

Murder, Stonings Reported

TA1001134389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Qa'id Mahmud Tamida, a resident of the village of 'Idnah, was shot and killed last night. Arab residents told our correspondent Arye Gus that the man was most likely murdered on suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. The police, however, are also investigating whether the murder was criminally motivated.

Near the village of Al-Ram north of Jerusalem, an Egged bus was pelted with stones and its driver was slightly injured. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that disturbances also took place this morning in the Wadi al-Jawz area in East Jerusalem: A private car was pelted with stones and its windshield was damaged, and rioters were dispersed with tear gas near Dung Gate.

Telephone cables in and out of the settlement of Qarne Shomron were severed, disconnecting 200 lines beginning with the numbers 929. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that technicians from the Bezeq phone company are repairing the lines.

The curfew was lifted in six refugee camps in the Gaza Strip today, but a curfew was imposed on the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp.

West Bank Teacher Stabbed

TA1001110589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jan 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] A Palestinian woman suspected of cooperating with the authorities was stabbed in the West Bank village of Hablah yesterday, and at least 21 others were injured in clashes in the territories during the second day of a general strike.

Shuhurat Abu Dhiyab, 35, a teacher, was stabbed inside her home by masked attackers on Sunday night [as published] and hospitalized in Al-Ittihad al-Nisa'i hospital in Nabulus with moderate wounds in the head.

An IDF spokeswoman said the army had no information on the incident.

No Casualties in Firebombing of Bus

TA0901194389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] A firebomb was hurled tonight at a No 63 Egged bus traveling near the village of Baqa al-Gharbiyya in Wadi 'Ara. The firebomb hit the side of the bus and ignited, but nobody was hurt.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that this was the second time in less than a week that firebombs have been thrown at Egged buses in Wadi 'Ara.

Gen Biran Appointed IDF Quartermaster General

TA0301195989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Brigadier General Ilan Biran will be appointed quartermaster general and will be promoted to general. Biran will replace Maj Gen Menahem 'Eynan, who is retiring from the IDF.

Gen Biran, 42, was commander of the Golani Brigade, commander of IDF units on the Lebanese border, and in his most recent post was head of the IDF Operations Branch.

Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that this is the first in a series of IDF appointments expected this year.

Significance of 'Arafat Visit to Jordan Viewed

TA1001144489 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 89 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-Jordanian Talks and the Horizons of Joint Cooperation"]

[Text] The visit that started last Friday by the Palestinian leader to the Jordanian capital and the talks he held with King Husayn and a number of Jordanian officials seek to place a new brick in the wall of Arab solidarity. This solidarity has now become an acute necessity whose achievement must not be delayed in view of the challenges facing the Arab nation, especially after this nation has defined its vision and responded positively to the international wish to establish a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

There is no doubt that this visit, the first since the recent PNC proclamation in Algiers of the Palestinian peace initiative that conforms with the Arab vision, acquires a special significance stemming from Jordan's pan-Arab and international status as well as from Jordan's importance in the efforts made to convene an international peace conference according to the international pattern. This significance also derives from the steadfastness of the Jordanian position, which refuses to deal with plans of partition that Israel's leaders have been constantly unleashing aimed at bypassing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The Palestinian leader proudly confirmed yesterday that the PLO will not hesitate to set up a confederation between the states of Palestine and Jordan. This confirmation reinforces the depth of the historical and cultural relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, who are firmly tied by a link that cannot be separated.

Hence, the Palestinian leader's visit to Jordan, from the viewpoint of its timing, the topics under discussion, and the positive results produced by it—particularly Jordan's declaration to upgrade Palestinian representation to that of an embassy—is regarded as a large stride toward the consolidation of ties between the two peoples who are linked by the unity of blood and common destiny, reinforced by historic resolutions of consecutive PNC sessions, including the recent historic Algiers session.

While we welcome Jordan's declaration of raising the level of Palestinian representation on its territory to that of an embassy, we perceive in the results of this visit new horizons of joint cooperation between Palestine and Jordan. We hope that this cooperation will expand so that it will pave the way for further cooperation that would enable the two states to achieve the joint aims and to raise the relationship to a level aspired to by the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Visits Amman

Received by King Husayn

JN0701162789 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Amman, 7 Jan (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace at noon today a U.S. congressional delegation currently visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Arab Cultural League.

His majesty discussed the current conflicts in the Middle East, led by the Arab-Israeli conflict whose substance and basic core is the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran conflict as well as the Lebanese issue. He asserted that the positive Palestinian stand represented by the PLO's response to the peace requirements must be met with a similar Israeli response.

He pointed to the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate right to self-determination and to a free life on their territory just like any other people. This also includes the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need to unite international efforts to turn a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran into a lasting peace based on noninterference and regional cooperation. He also stressed the need to resolve the Lebanese problem by restoring Lebanon's national unity, territorial integrity, and stability.

His majesty voiced hope that the new U.S. Administration would pay special attention to the Middle East due to this region's importance for the world and in view of the dangers resulting from the continued disputes there, which may threaten both world peace and international interests.

He also voiced hope that the current international atmosphere, which aims to entrench the bases of world peace, would also apply to the Middle East. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Received by Prime Minister

JN0701163189 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Amman, 7 Jan (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at noon today a U.S. congressional delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and relations between Jordan and the United States.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman and those accompanying the congressional delegation.

Meet With Senate President

JN0801191989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has said that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, believes firmly in the need for a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem based on the principle of land for peace and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

During his reception this morning of the U.S. congressional delegation at the Parliament, Al-Lawzi added that Jordan considers the Palestine question the crux of the conflict in the region. This question has existed since 1948 despite efforts exerted by the United Nations, the countries of the region, and successive U.S. Administrations.

He stressed that the international conference, which His Majesty King Husayn has called for holding under the supervision of the United Nations and with the attendance of all parties to the conflict including the PLO, is the best formula for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and solving the Palestine question in a way that guarantees the right of all states of the region to live in peace.

He touched on His Majesty King Husayn's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank and said that the decision came in response to the PLO desire and Arab unanimity at the Algiers summit.

It also aimed at giving the Palestinian people the chance to confront Israel and procced with their political march to attain their legitimate right of regaining their land and establishing their independent state.

During the meeting, Senate Deputy President Bahjat al-Talhuni reviewed the march of the Palestine question since 1948, the international peace initiatives, and the UN resolutions concerning this question.

He stressed the importance of the role that is supposed to be played by a superpower like the United States, which has political and economic interests in the region as well as distinguished relations with its states, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mary Rose Oakar, head of the delegation, praised the distinguished U.S.-Jordanian relations and said His Majesty King Husayn's balanced policy has the appreciation and respect of the U.S. Government and people.

She expressed her and the delegation's appreciation for the important political information that the Senate speaker gave about the situation in the region.

Meet With Chief of Staff

JN0801213289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff, received at the General Command this morning the U.S. congressional delegation. He explained to them the foundations of the Jordanian defense policy and issues of common concern. The guest delegation heard a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The meeting was attended by a number of the chief of staff's assistants and a number of senior officers.

Al-Rifa'i Receives Two U.S. Senators 9 Jan

JN0901195689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at noon today U.S. Senators Nancy Kassebaum and John McCain, who are currently visiting Jordan as part of their tour of the region's countries. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the international arena and the Middle East. They also discussed relations between Jordan and the United States.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman and the two senators' delegations.

Shams al-Din on Iran Visit, Beirut Fighting

JN0901190289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Jan 89 p 15

[By Rafiq Nasrallah in Beirut]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] What happened in Tehran? Have the contacts made by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Lebanese Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council—in an attempt to mediate with Imam Khomeyni to stop the Amal-Hizballah war in Beirut's southern suburb—succeeded? [passage omitted]

The most important question deals with the nature of Shaykh Shams al-Din's talks with Iranian officials. He says: This visit was positive, contrary to what was disseminated. The leaders in Tehran clearly understand all the proposals that were discussed in view of the sensitivity and seriousness of the situation not only regarding the Shi'ites' situation in Lebanon as a result of the military conflict between Hizballah and the Amal Movement but also regarding the general situation as a whole.

Shaykh Shams al-Din adds: I believe that there is some sort of understanding on the part of all those whom I met regarding the need to end the anomalous situation in the Islamic arena in Lebanon. Shaykh Shams al-Din revealed the nature of his meetings there. He said: I met with Imam Khomeyni twice. The first meeting took place as part of the accompanying delegation and was partly attended by the Lebanese ambassador in Tehran.

In the second meeting, I met with him in private, contrary to what was disseminated to the effect that Imam Khomeyni refused to receive me. Concerning what took place in that meeting, Shaykh Shams al-Din said: Matters were discussed in a profound, comprehensive, and precise manner. I frankly say I dotted the i's and crossed the t's and we attained positive, important results which will inevitably appear in the near future.

Shaykh Shams al-Din points out that there was agreement on a specific mechanism which will be implemented in order to work out an agreement to end the current tension. Indeed, AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the articles of the new agreement were conveyed to Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader; Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'farite mufti; and a number of political and religious figures.

They welcomed the agreement wholeheartedly. However, a few hours following Shaykh Shams al-Din's return to Beirut, violent clashes erupted in Beirut's southern suburb. Whereas some sources discounted the seriousness of these clashes, other sources said a party harmed by the Tehran agreement may have renewed the clashes.

Shaykh Shams al-Din admits that the situation is difficult and crucial. Hence, he recommends not to be very optimistic because the implementation of the agreement needs a period of time that may prove lengthy, particularly in view of the current Lebanese circumstances. However, he asserted that a joint Iranian-Syrian stand was conveyed to both Hizballah and the Amal Movement calling for self-restraint and for refraining from escalating the situation so the agreement can be put into effect.

Iranian Envoy Arrives To Discuss Shi'ite Clash

NC0901150289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Iranian envoy Mohammad Rafsanjani, brother of Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, arrived in Beirut today in an attempt to contain the Amal-Hizballah conflict. He met with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din in the presence of the Iranian Embassy charge d'affaires.

A delegation of the Islamic 'ulema grouping left for Tehran today to discuss the same subject with Iranian officials.

Violent Clashes Continue Between Amal, Hizballah

50 Dead, 150 Injured

NC0901184489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebahon 1730 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Fierce, bloody clashes between the sons of the same rank continued in Iqlim al-Tuffah today. Although the clashes eased this evening, according to certain sources it is feared that the fighting may spread to the areas of Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah, where gunmen appeared in the area and the positions of Hizballah and Amal are on alert.

For the 3d day in a row there were fierce clashes in the areas of Jba', Kafr Fila, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and the vicinity. Various types of rockets and machineguns were used in the fighting. According to Amal sources, the clashes raged at the eastern outskirts of Kafr Fila and the approach to Jba'. The Amal Movement said it began regaining control of Kafr Fila at noon, and later announced that it had taken control of the town. This evening it asserted that it was almost in complete control of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Hizballah sources denied these reports, asserting that its fighters are still in their positions. They said that the combat lines of the Islamic resistance are coming under violent rocket and artillery bombardment and that well over 250 Grad rockets had landed in the area from Amal positions in the township of (?Tista). The final outcome of the clashes has not yet been determined, although initial reports say well over 50 people were killed and some 150 were injured.

According to an AFP report on the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, there was a mass exodus from the area. The report stated that a large cloud of black smoke hangs over Iqlim al-Tuffah and that clashes were still raging in Kafr Fila and Jba'.

Large areas of southern Lebanon staged a general strike today in response to a call by the Amal Movement to mourn the victims of the clashes.

Amal To 'Wipe Out' Hizballah

NC1001073989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen are still going on in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the south, particularly in the areas of Jba', Kafr Fila, Al-Luwayzah, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Machineguns and rockets are being used in the fighting. [passage omitted]

As the fighting was continuing, an Amal information source said yesterday that the movement's gunmen were in full control of the town of Jba', had regained the town of Kafr Fila, and were advancing toward 'Ayn Bu Siwar. The source said the movement's gunmen will continue their onslaught to purge this region of what he called the renegades.

In another development, AFP has quoted 'Ali Khurays, an Amal official in Tyre, as saying that the movement is determined to wipe out Hizballah's presence in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Hizballah is now confined to some parts of Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlita, and Al-Luwayzah. Hizballah sources said the party's gunmen had withdrawn from the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah and returned to their original positions on the hills of 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Al-Luwayzah in the wake of the limited operation they had carried out, striking at Amal troop concentrations and lifting the siege on posts of the so-called Islamic Resistance in Al-Luwayzah and Mlita. [passage omitted]

According to sources in Sidon, approximately 15,000 persons have left the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, seeking safer areas. According to a preliminary casualty count, some 77 persons have been killed and 147 wounded since the fighting broke out in the South. In addition there has been great damage to property. The Amal Movement is reported as stating that 25 of its members were killed, 100 were wounded, and 13 are missing as a result of yesterday's fighting. For its part, Hizballah said the fighting had left a large number of its members either killed or wounded.

Al-Tufayli Rejects Surrender

NC0901075489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has asserted: We will defend ourselves to the last drop of blood, we will be patient, and we will not lay down the weapons with which we defend the Islamic Resistance. He was speaking during a ceremony held by Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance to mark the passage of 1 week since the martyrdom of Brothers Hasan 'Abbas and Rida al-Khalil, who lost their lives at the hands of Nabih Birri's gangs. The ceremony was held in the Al-Husayniyah center in Al-Awza'i yesterday afternoon.

Shaykh al-Tufayli said: We were patient when our people and brothers were mistreated. We forgave and were tolerant until everyone thought that we had laid down our arms as a result of military defeat. All this was out of mercy for our young men and brothers, because we realized that our response would have opened the door for an endless war.

His eminence added: We did our utmost and tried by all possible means to avert sedition. However, he said, we found out that sedition is the goal. To them [not further identified] sedition is a blessing, and this blessing only comes through killing and slaughtering us, demolishing our homes, and burning our lands, he stated. What they want is to bleed the people until they give in to Israeli or American daggers that will slaughter them, he said.

His eminence urged those who are calling for arms to be laid down in the suburb to give up this call, because for us it will mean death and killing. He urged these people to return to God and contemplate the destiny of this nation.

Shaykh al-Tufayli concluded: We do not want this war and we pray to God to guide the misled away from the injustice that they have been perpetrating.

Amal Blames 'Renegade' Groups

NC0801184189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Central Information Office of the Amal Movement has issued the following statement:

The renegade groups have once again expanded the circle of sedition to a new geographical area. Under cover of darkness, they raided a number of villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Today's battles are part of a bloody onslaught with more than one aim, the most prominent of which are:

1. To outflank the efforts begun by His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, to end the battles and nip sedition in the bud.

2. To outflank the Amal Movement leader's initiative to end the camps war once and for all.

3. To try to involve the Palestinian factor again in internal Lebanese conflicts by involving this factor in the various statements and media declarations issued by these groups.

4. To outflank any national attempt in the near future to implement the initiative of the PSP and Brother Walid Junblatt to effect the return of the evacuees from east of Sidon.

5. To outflank the Syrian role at the Arab and Islamic levels which aims to end tension and to establish Arab and Islamic solidarity in the region in general and in Lebanon in particular.

These provocations and the general local and Arab actions are part of a plot which the renegade groups are implementing in overt and irrefutable collaboration with the Zionist enemy and its agents. Today's actions by the renegade groups were accompanied by an Israeli shelling of Al-Nabatiyah. [passage omitted]

This battle was stirred up after the renegades failed in their attempt in the battles that raged in West Beirut and the southern suburb. A geographical zone abutting the Israeli enemy was chosen as the starting point toward the contact line between Sidon and its camps and deep into the South in order to divert the attention of Lebanese and Palestinian fighters from any action against the Israeli enemy after the camps agreement.

The events of the past few hours prove that special groups from the renegades were brought in from the camps where they are trained for criminal and terrorist operations in Lebanon and outside it. They raided a number of peaceful villages which have been outside the areas of tension. These groups have committed bestial massacres that recall the Israeli enemy's massacres in Dayr Yasin and Al-Hulah. [passage omitted]

While putting these facts before our kinsmen, our masses, the Lebanese people, and Arab and Islamic public opinion, the Amal Movement stresses that it will do all it can to put an end to these crimes and to confront this plot against Lebanon in the South, which is also aimed at eliminating the achievements of the resistance brought about through the struggle of the past years. This plot is also aimed against unity in support of the Islamic and national goal and the unity of the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian forces at this critical and hard stage through which Lebanon and the Arab world are passing.

The Amal Movement calls on the honest 'ulemas to keep informed of the facts, particularly because big crimes were committed in the past few hours in the name of Islam. Islamic law bans such crimes, particularly since what has taken place was endorsed by some pseudo-religious men.

Al-Huss Dispute With Junblatt Reported

PM0901090289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Jan 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Dispute Within Al-Huss Cabinet"]

[Text] The dispute within the cabinet of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has reached the point of his suspending his government activities after a reported verbal clash between him and Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt, who is said to have threatened Al-Huss.

In response to Minister Walid Junblatt's campaign against him, the prime minister has decided not to call any cabinet meetings until the minister stops his campaign. Minister Walid Junblatt is requesting an enlargement of Prime Minister al-Huss' cabinet through the addition of finance and other portfolios, but Prime Minister al-Huss is refusing to take such a step or any other measure that might affect the Central Bank in the western sector.

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam supports Al-Huss' view that the cabinet should not be enlarged lest such a step be interpreted as a move in favor of Lebanon's partition. Khaddam has told some Lebanese leaders in West Beirut that the unity of Al-Huss' government must be preserved because its disintegration would entail serious complications.

VOL Reports PSP-Fatah Agreement on Deployment

NC0901125689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, an agreement has been reached between the PSP and the pro-'Arafat Fatah movement. The agreement allows pro-'Arafat Palestinians to deploy along the Al-Shuf coast between Al-Rumaylah and Al-Damur, facilitating the movement of Palestinians toward the South. In return, Fatah representative 'Isam al-Lawh has promised to give the PSP certain sums of money.

PSP's Junblatt Returns Churches to Maronites

NC0701195389 Paris AFP in English 1807 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Beiteddin, Lebanon, Jan 7 (AFP)—Druze leader Walid Junblatt restored church buildings here to Maronite Christian authorities in a move aimed at allowing Christians to return to the Druze-held mountains southeast of Beirut.

Nearly 150,000 Christians were driven from their homes in the Al-Shuf mountains following pitched battles that erupted there in 1983 between Druze fighters and militants of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF).

The LF were defeated in the fighting which sparked inter-communal massacres.

At a ceremony attended by 1,500 people, including the Soviet ambassador, Mr. Junblatt handed the keys to Bayt al-Din's Maronite archbishopric to Bishop Ibrahim Hilu.

He called on the Christian population of nearby Dayr al-Qamar, Bhamdun and Dayr al-Mukhallis to return to their homes as a first step to a full return to the region by Christian Lebanese.

"This initiative is a prelude to the reconstitution of Lebanese national unity. It is not aimed against the other Lebanese communities," Mr. Junblatt said.

He said the return of the Christians should take place "step by step."

"The movement is under way and we are trying to remove all the obstacles," he said.

He added that he would not oppose the introduction of an unspecified security force to guarantee the safety of Christians who wished to take up his offer if his own Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militiamen were unable to protect them.

Mr. Junblatt also appealed to the Christian community to allow Druze families in Christian-held territory to return home or be compensated.

Soviet Embassy Guards Attacked; 3 Syrians Killed

NC0801202189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The Shaykh Subhi al-Salih forces—the Muhammad Hassan unit—has contacted Radio Free Lebanon and claimed responsibility for an attack with rockets and machineguns on the guards of the Soviet Embassy and soldiers of the Syrian occupation forces at 2107 today near the embassy in West Beirut.

The statement said that at least three Syrian soldiers were killed in front of the Globe Bank on the western side of the embassy. It promised that military operations will continue until the homeland is liberated from Syrian occupation.

2 Attacks on Syrian Posts in Tripoli Claimed

NC0901202289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The Tripoli Martyrs Battalion announced in a communication with Radio Free Lebanon this evening that it is responsible for attacking two Syrian occupation forces roadblocks, the first near the Bab al-Tabbanah entrance, close to the vegetable market in Tripoli, and the second at the Dayr 'Ammar crossroads, near the Al-Minyah area.

The battalion warned those who cooperate with the Syrian occupation forces and those who stop and mistreat people at the Syrian Al-Madfun roadblock that it will open fire at them and all those who cooperate with them.

Diplomatic Relations Restored With Morocco

JN0901123289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1219 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] In response to the fraternal initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to eliminate obstacles in the way of joint Arab action to confront the perils engulfing the Arab nation, the Syrian and Moroccan Governments have agreed to restore diplomatic relations between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Shar' Addresses Chemical Weapons Conference

JN0901182689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has declared that, based on its concern for promoting global peace and security and to underscore its commitment to total disarmament, Syria is of the opinion that the call for eliminating and destroying chemical weapons must be coupled with a parallel call for eliminating and destroying other weapons of total destruction.

Addressing the Paris international conference on banning chemical weapons, the foreign minister emphasized that top priority at the disarmament negotiations must be given to nuclear weapons and then to other weapons of mass destruction in the spirit of a 1978 UN General Assembly resolution.

Al-Shar' said that security is an indivisible whole and that it is not permissible that the security of certain states be safeguarded at the expense of others. It follows that, given the continuing Israeli occupation and the existing lack of equilibrium in our region, we should not be selective in eliminating just one type of the weapon of mass destruction without considering the elimination of other types.

The foreign minister called for setting up a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East under UN auspices. He said the growing Israeli military arsenal both qualitatively and quantitatively and its acquisiton of weapons of mass destruction, chemical and nuclear, thanks to colossal U.S. technical and financial assistance, serve to encourage Israel to cling to occupied Palestine and the Syrian Golan Heights, as well as parts of southern Lebanon. He added that this condition imposes a fait accompli on the region, brushing aside the international community's condemnation.

Al-Shar' emphasized that the Arabs cannot afford not to take into account Israeli threats and aggressions, particularly its savage 1982 invasion, when it used cluster bombs and other weapons of mass destruction.

He added: The tear gas grenades used by Israel against unarmed Palestinians in the uprising have toxic chemical contents that have claimed tens of lives and incapacitated a good many others.

The minister discussed the failure of certain Western media to publicize the possession by certain countries of chemical weapons on the grounds that they are entitled to their acquisition and their condemnation of the potential for other countries to acquire such weapons on the grounds that they have yet to mature.

He described this as a colonial argument that is no longer acceptable in this age, especially as those who used nuclear weapons in the forties and chemical weapons in the seventies and eighties portrayed themselves as the more mature party.

The minister denounced the unjustified furor stirred by the United States against Libya and the subsequent aggression against Libya as the Americans turned a blind eye to Israel's acquisition of nuclear and chemical weapons and numerous related facilities.

The countries most exposed to the threat of weapons of mass destruction, the minister added, are Arab and African countries that have no access to deterrents against such lethal weapons and the military arsenals of Israel and South Africa.

Concluding his speech, the foreign minister expressed the hope the conference will mark a historic takeoff to promote regional and international accords on banning chemical and other weapons of mass destruction.

He also expressed the hope that this conference would put in place guarantees whereby those who are denied such deadly weapons can feel the satisfaction of nonpossession and those possessing them can feel the need to do away with them, because keeping these destructive weapons is an unmitigated bane both for the countries that possess them and those that do not.

Hopes for Conference Examined

JN1001091689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Palestine broadcast: "Spotlight"]

[Text] The basis for banning chemical and nuclear weapons, which are both weapons of mass destruction, is the concern for world peace and the security of nations. Concern for peace and security means it is impermissible for certain forces to monopolize weapons of mass destruction to threaten others and impose their hegemony on them.

Therefore, the international conference in Paris should pass resolutions on the danger posed by Israel's possession and production of such weapons, and in fact, the danger posed by the United States' inclusion of Israel in the SDI program, whereby the United States wants Israel to become a basic factor in its global, and not just regional, military strategy.

This is the Arabs' just demand, with which they must confront both Washington's wantonness and hostile, fascist, racist behavior, and Britain's insolent position is continuing its traditional criminal policy against our Arab nation.

However, this is not the only framework for confronting the imperialists' haughtiness and crooked, foolhardy, hostile, racist logic. Only a unified Arab position against their hostility will preserve the Arabs' freedom, independence, and security in the face of the dangers threatening them. International conferences are only some of the frameworks for Arab moves in effectively defending their basic interests in achieving security, safety, and freedom on their land.

U.S. Senators, Delegation Pay Visit to Syria

Khaddam Receives Specter

JN0801210889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and the delegation accompanying him at 1700 today, in the presence of U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region.

Al-Asad Receives Delegations

JN0901143989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and [Representative] Mary Rose Oakar and their delegations at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian.

People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah also received Senator Specter and his delegation this morning.

The meeting was attended by Shakir Sa'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, and U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian. During the meeting, they discussed current issues, their positions, and a number of parliamentary issues.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Assesses Results of Vorontsov Talks

LD0901195489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Speech by President Najibullah delivered in Kabul on 9 January—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots: As I promised in my previous speeches, I will inform you about the fundamental developments underway concerning internal problems and problems around the country and the actions and measures which the Republic of Afghanistan is taking in this respect.

I would like to inform you about the recent developments inside the country and the negotiations conducted by His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union and Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Aghanistan, with the representatives of the armed opposition groups.

First of all, I would like to draw the attention of my compatriots to the fact that the Republic of Afghanistan declared a cease-fire from 1-4 January as a prelude to peace to prevent the shedding of Afghan blood on the basis of the national reconciliation policy. An assessment of the results of the cease-fire shows that a number of the armed groups observed the cease-fire due to war- weariness and at the request of the local people in many areas of the country.

However, a number of the extremist armed groups who received instructions from abroad irresponsibly and recklessly rejected the cease-fire declaration, a cease-fire which was not only the wish of the Republic of Afghanistan but also the wish of the people of Afghanistan. The units of the Armed Forces resolutely embarked on reciprocal actions against these antipeace and antinational interests—the extremists—in line with the declaration of the state, and gave a lesson to the violaters of the cease-fire.

As a result of the cease-fire violations by some armed extremist groups, regretfully a number of our innocent compatriots were either killed or wounded. The responsibility for this rests totally with the extremists.

Yuliy Vorontsov recently visited Tehran at the invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He exchanged views with the government authorities of Iran on 2-3 January regarding the restoration of peace and the cessation of war in Afghanistan as soon as possible. He explained the Soviet Union's position, which is in line with and coordinated with the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, as one of the guarantors of the Geneva agreements. In the meantime, Yuliy Vorontsov conducted talks with the leadership of the coalition council of the alliance of eight in Iran to seek a political solution to the problem of Afghanistan. The Iranian authorities [word indistinct] in connection with the peaceful solution of the situation of Afghanistan and the participation of all the political forces in the future political life, without discrimination.

The leadership of the alliance of eight expressed their agreement with political pluralism and the multi-party system without any discrimination and persecution. They underlined the necessity of friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and expressed their desire to continue contacts.

Following the visit to Tehran, Yuliy Vorontsov paid a visit to Islamabad in accordance with his program.

The talks with Pakistani authorities, of which the Republic of Afghanistan was fully aware and was given a detailed report, concentrated on seeking a political solution to the problem of Afghanistan. And the idea of a cease-fire and the convening of a meeting to search for peace were discussed and considered as the first step towards understanding and dialogue.

Similarly, Yuliy Vorontsov conducted talks and meetings with representatives of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan. [interruption in transmission] Certain positive points, such as the peaceful solution of the situation, the creation of a council for the search for peace, or the consultative council or peace council or consultative committee or consultative peace assembly, which are the requirements of the formation of a broad-based government, the active participation of the United Nations in the settlement of the problems, in line with its resolution on Afghanistan can be seen and which can be taken under consideration and study. [sentence as heard]

Similarly, during a meeting with Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister, and the minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, the parties considered a cease-fire or the reduction of military operations to a minimum as practical conditions for ensuring future steps. The parties also pointed out that the question of convening an international conference on Afghanistan and the possible presence of United Nations forces are related to the duties of any broad-based government. It is necessary to thank the United Nations, with its efforts to enforce its resolution, for its good offices.

Regretfully, some leaders of the opponents of the Republic of Afghanistan still insist on their wishful, imaginary, and selfish plans. Not only is there no realistic and practical solution in their plans to prevent bloodshed among the Afghans, but also none of them has a clear vision of a practical policy for the future. They even reject the reasonable proposals of their allies for seeking a solution to the problems.

They overlook the legitimate and important demand of our persecuted people for the cessation of war and fratricide and the maintenance of peace and stability in the country. On the contrary, through citing such new (?slogans), they continue war and bloodshed.

Even at the negotiating table, the groups' leaders were not unanimous. Some of them—in particular the leaders of the extremist groups—in a most irresponsible and reckless manner rejected ways and means of reaching peace. They not only ignored the role of the PDPA and the Republic of Afghanistan as a living reality in the contemporary history of our country, which has a 24-year long history of struggle and an organized political base—its political allies are on its side, it has the support of the country's social organizations, a half a million Armed Forces are defending its policy, and wide masses and various strata of the people are linked to it—but they also closed their eyes to the role of other forces, including the alliance of eight in Iran and other politicial parties, some commanders of armed groups inside the country, watchers and personalities of the previous [Afghan] regimes in Europe, and Muhammad Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, who could play a certain role in maintaining the cause of peace. The reaction of the extremist groups is indicative of the fact that they want to monopolize power and impose their power on others.

Therefore, they rejected the cease-fire as the condition [word indistinct] and compromise among the Afghans and a preface for peace. One should not ignore these facts as a result of an illusory assessment by a few ambitious people and we cannot work to resolve the issues without the participation and acceptable proportional representation of the Republic of Afghanistan based on the level of its influence in society.

To ignore this fact means the continuation of bloodshed. The responsibility for this matter will rest fully on the opposition. It would be better if the extremist opposition groups bring their plans from the sky down to earth and make them more realistic and objective.

The Republic of Afghanistan emphasizes on the one hand the need for the continuation of talks and negotiations in conformity with Afghan national interests and will direct all its efforts and means to achieve that end. On the other hand, it stresses once again that imposing a military solution and riding alone [yeka tazi] will never bring a favorable result, particularly not to the armed extremists groups themselves.

If they continue to pursue such a method, the people of Afghanistan, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, the PDPA, and other patriotic forces have the ability and all the resources to continue their struggle decisively against them and to defend heroically the interest of Afghanistan's people and the national reconciliation policy.

With the help of Almighty God we will be victorious. Success comes from God.

Najibullah Sends Condolences on Hirohito Death

LD1001070689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 9, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent a condolence message to Tokyo on the demise of His Imperial Majesty Hirohito, emperor of Japan.

The message expressed sympathy to the royal family, government and people of Japan.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Libyan Incident

LD0701071289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 6, BAKHTAR—The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) has denounced shooting down of two Libyan planes in the costs of Libya on Jan. 4, 1989 by the air forces of the United States of America based the Mediterranean Sea.

The spokesman added that this act of the U.S. air forces means an aggression against the security of a sovereign and UN member state as well as a flagrant violation from the UN Charter and the accepted international norms and principles.

This U.S. act has faced peace and security in the region and the world with a serious threat.

The spokesman added that while the recent political developments in the international relations has created a favourable atmosphere for reduction of tension and maintenance of standing and confidence, resort to such actions injures all efforts of peace-loving mankind for ensurance of peace and international security.

Foreign Minister Returns From Paris Conference

LD1001045189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil arrived home at noon today after taking part in the international conference on chemical and toxic weapons which was held in Paris.

In the speech he delivered to the conference yesterday, Mr 'Abdul Wakil said that the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], while once again confirming its pledges on the nonuse and elimination of chemical weapons, announces that it will never resort to the production, use, development, storage, or export of chemical and biological weapons, and that it will not allow any country to pass chemical weapons through RA territory.

The foreign minister declared at the conference that the RA will sign the convention on halting chemical weapons as soon as it is completed.

Kawiani Returns From New Delhi Meeting

LD0801214289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, who has been in India to take part in the 13th Congress of the PPILI [as heard] returned to Kabul today. [passage omitted]

New Paktia Governor Assumes Office

LD0901153589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] At a ceremony today, Muhammad Anwar Hasel, the new governor and head of the Defense Council of Paktia Province, was introduced to the heads of departments and to the people of Gardeyz city.

According to a report by a BAKHTAR correspondent, after the recitation of a few verses from the Holy Koran, Muhammad Anwar Hasel, the new governor of Paktia, expressed appreciation for the trust placed in him by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan and spoke about the national reconciliation policy and about ensuring a nationwide peace. He pledged to use all his efforts to ensure peace and to serve the people.

A number of the officials of the departments and establishments speaking on behalf of other state employees in that province, pledged their cooperation with the new governor of Paktia.

Mujahidin Seize Gowshtah, Down Helicopter

BK1001034489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have seized Gowshtah, the district headquarters of Nangarhar Province after fierce fighting during the past several days. Thus, in this province, Kama District is the only district in the east of Jalalabad, which is under the control of the Kabul regime.

The mujahidin are now trying to take control of Samar Kheyl and Kama District. If they are successful in their attempt, the fall of Jalalabad will be inevitable.

According to reports, the mujahidin shot down a helicopter in Do Shakh area in Baghlan Province, killing nine persons on board.

Armed Forces Operations in Provinces Detailed

LD0901190289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] BIA, quoting competent sources in the Armed Forces, reports that the Armed Forces units and companies, which are stationed in Khowst Major-District and Qandahar, Herat, Konduz, Farah, and Baghlan Provinces to defend themselves and the people, have carried out a number of operations in some of these regions during the last 24 hours in order to ensure peace and security.

As a result of these operations heavy losses have been inflicted on the extremists and many of their hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of the Armed Forces activities, 69 extremists, who had crossed the border to disrupt security in Khowst Major-District, were killed in Shawali Dokan and 5 of them were injured. Also during these operations dozens of various types of weapons were destroyed.

According to another report from Konduz Province, as a result of Armed Forces mopping up operations in the districts of Khanabad and Chahar Dar, dozens of warmongerers including an Arab adviser were killed and their three hideouts were destroyed.

A report from Qandahar Province says that during Armed Forces operations in the region of Kotal-e Morcha, seven warmongering elements were killed and some arms and ammunition was seized from them.

Armed Forces activities in the region of Takhteh Pol destroyed two enemy arms and ammunition depots.

According to another report during mopping up operations in the Enjil District, Herat Province, eight extremists were killed and a number of their weapons and ammunition were seized.

Also, during mopping up operations in some parts of Baghlan Province, 43 extremists, including an Arab adviser, were killed; one 23mm gun was seized from them; and their hideouts were destroyed.

A report from Farah Province states that mopping up operations in some parts of that province resulted in the death of three extremists, including one of their ringleaders Nader Shah. A number of extremists were wounded.

Eight extremists were killed in Shiveh District, Nangarhar Province and in the region of Towr Ghar, Paktia Province, and 20 of them were wounded.

BIA's military section reports that recently heavy clashes have taken place between the extremists and opposition groups in Farah, Herat, and Samangan Provinces. As a result, 32 persons from both sides were killed and 17 others injured.

Violation Notices Submitted to UN Mission

Note No 173

LD0701071889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 6, BAKHTAR—The 173rd protest notice of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on the repeated violations from the second article of the first document of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was submitted here to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) on Thursday, reports the Liaison Office of the Foreign Ministry with the UNGOMAP.

The notice gave precise information on the 15 cases of clear and undeniable violation by Pakistan equipping the extremists inside Afghanistan with arms and munitions for creating terror and destruction. It asked the UNGOMAP to assess precisely the violations and inform the UN secretary general's representative of its results.

Likewise, the 174th protest notice of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on the 12 cases of flagrant violations from the second article of the first document of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was submitted here today to the UNGOMAP.

The notice says that the Pakistani Government violates the Geneva accords by delivery of advanced weapons and munitions to the Afghan extremists which have caused much human and material losses.

The notice asked the mission to investigated the violations according to the item seven, document number four of the Geneva agreements.

Notes Nos 174, 175

LD0801071889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 7, BAKHTAR—The one-hundred and seventy-fifth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

The notice contains strict information on 14 instances of Pakistani violations of the said accords.

It asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of paragraph seven, document number four of the Geneva agreements investigate the said violations.

Note No 176

LD0901073389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 8, BAKHTAR—A source of Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the 176th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on 16 instances of violations of the provisions of Geneva accords by Pakistan was submitted here today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The notice stipulates the human and material losses which have come about as a result of firing by the extremist groups in the capital and provinces in the past few days.

The UN mission has been requested to study the instances of violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general's representative.

Note No 177

LD1001094589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The coordination office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan with the UNGOMAP reports that this evening memorandum 177 on repeated violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was handed in to the delegation office in Kabul.

In the memorandum accurate information has been given about 11 cases of flagrant and undeniable violations by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1, of the Geneva accords, particularly about the dispatch of convoy of arms and ammunition to arm the extremists in order to cause fear and destruction. The delegation requests an assessment of the violations mentioned in the memorandum and informs the envoy of the UN secretary general of its result.

Bangladesh

'Deep Concern' Voiced Over Libyan Plane Downing

BK0801130889 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed deep concern over the recent incident involving the shooting down of two Libyan aircraft over the Mediterranean (?area). It called for the need to exercise maximum restraint so that no step is taken by anyone which may escalate tension in the region.

The Bangladesh Government hopes that all concerned would take immediate measures so that the current positive development toward the relaxation of tension in the world, and particularly in the Middle East, was sustained.

'Anti-Fundamentalist' Strike Grips Chittagong
BK1001092689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Dhaka, Jan. 10 (AFP)—Police were out in force in Chittagong on Tuesday [10 January] as a general strike led by anti-fundamentalist political groups entered its second straight day in the southeastern Bangladesh city, residents said.

The strike, the fourth there in the past week, was held to protest a three-day Islamic fundamentalist religious conference that opened in Chittagong late Monday under tight police security.

Chittagong, the country's second largest industrial and commercial centre, was virtually paralysed during the strike called by former freedom fighters—who fought Pakistan during the 1971 war for independence—and student groups.

City residents said police had been deployed throughout Chittagong in large numbers Tuesday as tension mounted between rival groups vowing to go ahead with their programmes.

They said shops, commercial offices and banks remained closed and vehicles stayed off the streets and added that there had been no immediate reports of violence.

The city's important port was also seriously affected by the strike which reduced its activities by at least 40 percent, a local reporter said Tuesday.

The fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami party and the Islamic Social Welfare Society went ahead with their conference Monday and Tuesday despite the strikes.

The strike organizers have demanded that the conference be banned and its main speaker, Mawlana Delwar Hossain Saidee, expelled from the city.

They have accused the Jamiyat-e Eslami and Islamic Social Welfare of trying to foster fundamentalist and communal politics—charges refuted by both groups.

At least 10 people were injured Monday in clashes between police and anti-funadamentalist protestors, press reports said, citing police.

India

Annual Exercises on Pakistan Border Cancelled
BK0901094589 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 30 dec 88 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Dec (NAVBHARAT TIMES)—In a move to improve relations with Pakistan, India has decided not to conduct annual military exercises this year in the Rajasthan border areas. India has informed Pakistan about this.

Great importance is being attached to this Indian decision taken on eve of the momentous round of talks between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Pakistani counterpart, Ms Benazir Bhutto. Observers believe that this will lead to the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust between the two countries.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan military headquarters had been notified earlier about the routine annual winter military exercises conducted by the Indian Army in this sector.

It is obvious that the Pakistan military establishment did not like the idea of the planned Indian military exercises. At the same time Pakistan began to step up preparations for military war exercises on the Punjab border.

India has thus taken an important move toward improving its relations with Pakistan by deciding to cancel its military exercises. This will not only create an atmosphere of mutual trust between the two countries, but will prove to be a precursor for establishing durable peace, security, and cooperation between them.

Gandhi Comments on Visits to China, Pakistan
BK0701030289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister has said that India's foreign policy has enhanced its prestige in the world and brought peace in the region.

Speaking at a public meeting in Madurai yesterday evening, Mr Rajiv Gandhi referred to his recent visit to China and said during our talks with China, we maintained our position without giving up anything. Talks have also been held with the democratically elected government in Pakistan after many years, he said.

The prime minister also said our policy in Sri Lanka has established the first ever single Northeast Province and a Tamil government there.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi also unveiled a statue of Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Visit 'Real Breakthrough'
BK0901160389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that the setting up of a joint working group to seek a solution to the complex Sino-Indian border problem is a real breakthrough. Addressing a meeting of the enlarged Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] in New Delhi today, Mr Gandhi said the atmosphere under which talks were held in China was not only cordial but most friendly. The meeting was attended by Congress-I chief ministers, PCCI's [Pradesh, State Congress Committee-I] presidents, and union ministers besides CWC members.

The meeting congratulated the prime minister for the positive steps taken by him to improve relations with China and Pakistan. After assessing the results of the SAARC summit in Islamabad, the meeting welcomed the prime minister's call to make SAARC a people's movement and to break barriers to people-to-people interaction in the South Asian region. It also welcomed the decision to provide visa free travel in SAARC countries to Supreme Court judges and members of parliament as a good beginning in this direction.

It said the decisions taken at the SAARC meeting to identify areas of economic cooperation and to have joint studies on the environment was notable and lauded the decision to draw up a regional perspective plan for setting development targets for the year 2,000 in core areas.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations of the meeting, the party general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, said the working committee appreciated the solid decisions taken by the government on national and international issues during the last 4 years. He said the working committee placed on record its unstinted support to the new state of Palestine and congratulated the prime minister for according immediate recognition to the state.

Editorial Urges Caution in Dealing With China

BK0701053189 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Detente, at a Price"]

[Text] That the leaders of China and India have begun talking is an event of great significance, and one that is most welcome. There has been a price to pay, of course; the Indian Government has once again shut its eyes to the suffering of the Tibetan people, and it has in effect accepted the Chinese position on the boundary dispute.

The visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the show of warmth by the Chinese leaders, specially by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the agreements on civil aviation, cultural exchanges, on cooperation in science and technology, and, even more, the decision of the two sides to set up mechanisms for regular consultation, all bode well. And not just for the promise they hold of easing tensions along the Sino-Indian border.

Even if Pakistan were still under a Zia-type ruler it would have seen that the resumption of direct relations between China and India lessens its ability to play the China card. The new, democratic regime in Pakistan will see in the outcome of Mr Gandhi's visit yet another argument for normalising relations with India.

The crucial question has been the boundary. On this Mr Gandhi has been preparing the ground for the principle of "mutual accommodation" which China has pressed over the years. He had, for instance, talked of the desirability of recognising the "national interests" of both countries in a speech in Budapest in July last as a way of resolving the border dispute. He had the idea duly endorsed by the All-India Congress Committee (I) in November.

The compromise involves much greater concessions to China than were entailed in the package that Mr Chou Enlai had offered in 1960. Mr Deng Xiaoping had reiterated this package indirectly in 1981 via some foreign correspondents and directly to representatives of the Indian Government in 1982.

Even till 1983 China was prepared, it seemed, to give up some of the areas which it had acquired in the West and recognise the McMahon Line in return for the acceptance by India of its right to areas in Aksai Chin which it deemed as being necessary for its security and internal communications. Mrs Gandhi prevaricated, fearing that she would be accused of a sell-out.

In 1985 the Chinese suddenly upped the ante. They began saying that the largest area of dispute was in fact in the East, that is, in Arunachal Pradesh and that India must make concessions in this area for China to make corresponding concessions in the West. The compromise that Mr Gandhi and his team will now be preparing the country for is to recognise Chinese rights in the West so that China gives up the claims it has put forward over areas like Arunachal Pradesh. The working group which has been set up will be merely working out the details of this acceptance.

The fatal flaw has lain in the 1954 agreement on Tibetan trade. That agreement became famous in the ensuing years for its enunciation of Pancasila [five principles of peaceful coexistence]. Its less honourable purpose was to hand the Tibetan plateau over to China on a platter.

Once the Indian Government recognised Chinese sovereignty over Tibet it robbed the Indian case on the border of much of its effectiveness. And it let go the one opportunity it had of China agreeing to settle the matter along the then lines of control. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has reiterated the 1954 position, and thus confirmed the Chinese case on the status of the agreement on which our case on the border is said to rest.

That decision, the continuing inability of India to militarily dislodge the Chinese from areas they have taken over in Aksai Chin, the Soviet pressure to come to a "realistic" deal with China on the border have made the compromise predictable.

Thus, both on Tibet and the boundary the Chinese have had their way. On both we are left with hopes: the hope that developments on the Soviet rim will convince China that repression will not snuff out the urges of the Tibetans and that this in turn will induce it to adopt a more humane policy in the plateau; the hope that the general gains from a resumption of direct relations with the leaders of China will outweigh the price we will be paying in territory.

All this will require much weighing by the people. The elections in India will give them an occasion to weigh this along with other things, and to install a government which can talk with confidence on their behalf. It is all to the good therefore that the working group is to proceed gradually and attempt to reconcile the positions of the two countries only over the next two to three years. And there is the lesson of history. Relations nose-dive as swiftly as sabotaged aircraft.

The euphoria of the "Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai" days ended in bitterness that has lasted a quarter of a century. Decades of fraternal co-operation with the Vietnamese did not keep China from pouncing on it in February 1979. The decision of the two sides in the very first round of official talks in 1981 to ensure peace and tranquillity on the borders pending the solution of the boundary problem did not prevent the serious incident in the Sumdorang Valley last year. Given the past, the very recent past, therefore, it is best to walk this road with studied deliberation.

PATRIOT Assesses Gandhi Visit to China

BK0801095489 Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Dec 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Historic Visit"]

[Text] Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's goodwill visit to China, the first by India's Prime Minister in 34 years, has achieved beyond what it realistically could have been expected to accomplish. It has been aptly described as a new beginning—in the sense that the new leaders of both India and China have expressed their desire to look to the future.

The errors and conflicts which vitiated a particular phase of China-India relations should not weigh on the future relationship of these two neighbours. This indeed was the rationale of the several, often unilateral, steps India has taken (as the Prime Minister mentioned in Beijing) to reestablish normal relations with China and to find an equitable settlement of the border dispute.

The outcome has, indeed, been substantial. The leaders of the two countries, who on the Chinese side included Mr Deng Xiaoping and Mr Zhao Ziyang, besides Premier Li Peng, the joint communique says, held "in-depth" discussions on the China-India boundary question. China's Premier Li Peng and Mr Rajiv Gandhi have agreed to set up a joint working group on the boundary question comprising India's Foreign Secretary and China's Vice Foreign Minister. Though reports from Beijing have spoken of a "time-frame" of two to three years for the working group to recommend a border settlement, the joint communique issued in Shanghai at the end of the Prime Minister's five-day sojourn, does not contain that stipulation naturally. The joint working group has been given the freedom to work out its modalities and proceed in the spirit which informed the talks between the top leaders of the two countries.

The joint groups on economic relations and science and technology will be headed by the concerned Ministers. The eight rounds of border talk had been conducted mostly by the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries, but then the talks remained confined to restatement of well-known positions. Now the group will work jointly within the framework enunciated by the political leadership during the Prime Minister's visit.

The working group's peacekeeping function is sanctioned by the statement in the communique that the two countries would "work hard to create a favourable climate and conditions for a fair and reasonable settlement".

This country's moves towards China have to be seen in the wider context of the future. The geography of the situation in the two countries cannot be altered. Regardless of the traumatic and unhappy experiences of the 1950s and 1960s, every effort has to be made not only to have normal relations but also friendly cooperation with China. Nations with border disputes have managed to have normal relations between them, while they have awaited equitable settlements of territorial disputes.

There is no reason why in this case a border settlement must come before Sino-Indian relations are restored to normal. No agreement, unjust to one side, can be the durable basis of a good neighbourly relations between countries like India and China. Mr Rajiv Gandhi's historic visit has broken new ground in the bilateral relationship. Much patient and unobtrusive work, however, remains to be done for a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable boundary settlement.

Meanwhile, bilateral relations should be expanded in the areas stipulated by the agreements concluded during the visit and the two countries should seek to work together in the international fora for "a new international economic and political order." This will strengthen the process of mutual understanding and help in resolution of bilateral issues.

U.S. Downing of Libyan Jets Called 'Serious' Act

BK1001032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] India has asked the UN Security Council to ensure that the incidents such as destruction of two Libyan aircraft by the U.S. are not repeated. An Indian official told the council, when it debated the incident, that it is a serious and dangerous act. The situation should not be allowed to deteriorate and pose a threat to international peace and security. India's deputy ambassador to the UN, Mr C. Das Gupta drew the members' attention to a nonaligned communique, which condemned Washington's unprovoked aggression and state terrorism.

A modified draft resolution was tabled last night by the council's nonaligned seven members deploring the U.S. action and seeking to halt its maneuvers in the area. The members are Ethiopia, Colombia, Malaysia, Algeria, Yugoslavia, Nepal, and Senegal. The 50-nation council is meeting at Libya's request, which wants the council to condemn the U.S. action and ask Washington to withdraw its forces from the area.

Maltese Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

BK0901065589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister of Malta, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, arrived in New Delhi this morning on an official visit. He was received at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The external affairs minister and the energy minister were also present.

During his stay in the capital, Dr Fenech Adami will call on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, and hold discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The talks are expected to focus on the existing state of bilateral relations and the exchange of views on international matters of mutual interest. The possibility of enhancing commercial and economic exchanges will also be explored.

Delhi Power Failure Affects Radio, TV Broadcasts

BK0801160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] There has been a major power breakdown in Delhi. The entire capital was without power supply this evening. The essential services, including All India Radio and Doordarshan, were affected.

According to a spokesman of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the breakdown was because of tripping in the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana circuit of the northern grid, which affected the power supply to the capital. He said supply is being restored in phases. The local generation is being supplemented from the Badarpur thermal station.

The programs on most of the shortwave transmitters of All India Radio were off the air for about 40 minutes, while Delhi A, B, and C were affected for about 10 minutes. The transmission could not be restored immediately because of the breakdown of the generator due to a minor fire caused by overheating. The staff on duty put out the fire. However, the bulletins beamed to various regional stations were maintained through the INSAT channel. Channel 2 of the Delhi Doordarshan was also off the air for about 30 minutes, while the main channel could not telecast any program for about 12 minutes.

A PTI report from Jaipur says the second and third units of the Kota thermal power plant were shut down following disturbances in some parts in northern grid. Efforts are on to restore power to the affected units.

Electricity Supply Restored

BK0901030589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Power supply in Delhi, which was badly disrupted yesterday evening, has now been fully restored. The chairman of the Central Electricity Authority told our correspondent this morning that supply has been restored in phases after the Bhakra and the Badarpur systems were activated. There is no loadshedding in Delhi now.

Curfew Imposed in Guntur District Towns

BK0901035989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, curfew has been imposed in three towns and two villages of Guntur District from last night as a precautionary measure. The curfew will be in force till 0600 tomorrow morning. Prohibitory orders have also been promulgated in the district to be in force till Wednesday morning. Dusk-to-dawn curfew also continues in Guntur, Tenali, and Vijayavada. Tight security arrangements have been made to prevent any untoward incident.

Curfew Lifted 10 Jan

BK1001041089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, curfew is being lifted from this morning in all the towns of Guntur District. However, night curfew continues in Vijayawada as a precautionary measure. Prohibitory orders were promulgated in the four coastal districts till the 15th of this month.

The state cabinet met yesterday to discuss various measures to strengthen the police force in view of the recent large-scale violence. Later, talking to newsmen, the chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, said that he has sent communication to the Center demanding a central assistance of 100 crore rupees for immediate relief measures in the riot-hit areas.

A delegation of legislators of the state belonging to Telugu Desam, Janata Dal, CPI-M, and BJP met the president, the vice president, and the prime minister. They submitted memoranda demanding an assistance of 100 crore rupees for relief and rehabilitation of people affected in the riots.

Iran

Velayati Returns From Paris Conference

LD1001070489 Tehran IRNA in English 0651 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—Iran's foreign minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Monday evening after participation at the Paris international conference on chemical arms.

At a brief interview at Tehran Mehrabad Airport upon arrival he said that because he had lobbied among delegates and participated at interviews with the media, delegates eventually recognized Iraq as being an indisputable user of chemical weapons. He said at the time being a good upportunity for fighting the manufacture and supply of such weapons prevails in the conference.

Asked elsewhere about the reasons for a delayed Iraq-Iran peace talks he said Iraq is yet ill-disposed for talks and that the Islamic Republic holds the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, responsible for the deadlock in talks. [sentence as received]

Velayati Comments on Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC1001074689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has described the dispute between Hizballah and the Amal Movement as a catastrophe. In an interview with AL-NAHAR newspaper, Velayati urged the Lebanese to determine their own future. He said that if foreign and external pressures on Lebanon were stopped, it would become possible to overcome the problems and difficulties assailing the country. He added that the situation in Lebanon is very complicated and that the Lebanese people are suffering the results of differences among some groups. He also said: If we can use our influence to create a better atmosphere and conditions in Lebanon, then we will not hesitate to do so.

Velayati went on to say: We do not want to interfere in Lebanon's domestic affairs because the future of this country depends on the will of the Lebanese people. He added: We believe that the Lebanese Government should be formed on the basis of what the majority of the Lebanese people want and how they vote.

'Critical' Situation in Southern Lebanon Noted

LD1001114389 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] According to dispatches, the Amal and Hizballah forces yesterday continued their fighting in south Lebanon. Yesterday's clashes were in continuation of the fighting which began between the two sides initially in the southern suburbs of Beirut 8 days ago and spread to south Lebanon within a space of 2 days. Although the situation in the southern suburbs of Beirut and West Beirut are reported by news agencies to have been relatively quiet during the past 2 days, still the fact that 17 people are killed and 40 wounded are indicative of the intensity of yesterday's clashes in south Lebanon. Iqlim al-Tuffah region, the scene of yesterday's battles, is said to be among the last places of the Hizballah forces in south Lebanon.

During the battles, which took place between the two sides' forces in south Lebanon last April, the Amal militiamen occupied most of the positions of Hizballah in that region. Yesterday's battle occurred over the control of the Iqlim al-Tuffah region and the last positions of Hizballah at a time when the Zionist regime continues to occupy a part of south Lebanon and its forces, in joint operations with mercenaries of Antoine Lahd, pose a threat to the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Under such circumstances there is no doubt that firstly clashes between the Shi'ite forces will go on to weaken the position of Muslims, especially that of the Shi'ite community in Lebanon, and secondly elimination of part of the combatant Muslim forces from south Lebanon would embolden the Zionist regime, perpetrating and expanding its aggressions against Lebanon. Therefore, it is essential that in the first place Muslim forces must avoid carrying out armed clashes and encounters against one another; and in the second place booster the Islamic resistance front in south Lebanon by strengthening their old forces in that region and adding freedom of action in the face of the Zionist regime's aggression.

This means that the two Shi'ite groups in Lebanon, currently combating one another, must politically settle their rift in the same manner that Lebanon's religious personages from both groups have stressed the need for terminating propaganda and military wars against one another. This is the course in which Iran and Syria, too, have directed their efforts. Syrian forces, during the past few days when clashes continued in the southern suburbs of Beirut, intervened in the matter, separated the two sides and succeeded in establishing the fragile truce. At present, when it so appears that the situation in the southern suburbs of Beirut is quiet, such efforts as well as strengthening of the truce should be continued and attempts made for terminating the fighting.

In this connection it is expected that the quadripartite committee, which has been set up to settle the difference between Amal and Hizballah, would be strengthened and representatives of the two warring sides as well as those of Iran and Syria, with their active participation in their committee session, would endeavor to resolve the dispute. On numerous occasions, Iran has announced its readiness in this regard and also to continue its current efforts for resumption of that committee's session and bring an end to the tragic clashes between the two Shi'ite groups in Lebanon.

It is expected that a special representative would be dispatched by Iran to Lebanon for this very purpose in the near future. At present, situation in south Lebanon is extremely critical. Unfortunately, incoming reports indicate that the forces of the two warring sides are engaged in a man-to-man fightings in some of the villages, raiding residential buildings in the process. Based on these very reports an Amal spokesman has said that these clashes will continue until the Hizballah forces are driven out of Iqlim al-Tuffah. These are very disappointing comments. This critical situation, which brings happiness to the Zionist regime and the enemies of islam alone, must be brought to an end.

Besharati Leaves for Syria To Help Mediate

LD0901161889 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—First Deputy Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left here for Syria Monday at the head of a political delegation to mediate between Lebanon's conflicting Muslim groups.

Besharati is carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for the belligerents Hizballah and Amal, and is to hold talks with leaders of the Shi'ite combatants in Lebanon.

Visit to Gulf States by UK's Howe Examined

LD0401180289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, on the third leg of his journey to the Persian Gulf region, arrived in Riyadh yesterday. This stage of Howe's visit, compared with the rest of his 9-day visit to the region, is more significant. He has already visited Kuwait and will go to other member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The British Government has had historic ties with these states and since 1970. When this country's forces left the Persian Gulf, Britian has always tried to maintain its traditional links with these countries.

What makes these ties more important in recent years, however, is the British Government's extensive influence in politics and arms. The Anglo-Arabian arms deal, signed 2 years ago, was called the deal of the century. On the basis of this agreement, Arabestan [term traditionally used for Saudi Arabia in Iran] will purchase between 11 to 15 billion dollars worth of weapons from Britian. Although the signing of this agreement will give Arabestan a powerful arsenal of weapons, from fighter aircrafts to warships, it is considered, on the other hand, as a positive and vital aid to Britain's economy.

On the one hand, this agreement will prevent bankruptcy of many British companies, which were on the verge of collapse, and on the other hand, puts the British Government on the same level as the two superpowers: a major arms exporter. This constant rivalry has always existed among the Western countries, particularly the United States, Britain, and France, which have tried to find larger markets for their military products. Since the Middle Eastern countries are the biggest arms importers, they have been targets of the arms-producing rivals.

The arms sales agreement between Arabestan and the British Government, signed 2 years ago at the estimated figure of 15 billion dollars, has been a great success for the British Government in this rivalry. This is particularly true because it is said that other GCC member countries have been persuaded to follow Arabestan's policy to buy British weapons. Therefore, this stage of Geoffrey Howe's trip and his visit to Riyadh is highly important to Britain.

At a time when Britain's military relations with Arabestan have become particularly important, there could be several issues in Geoffrey Howe's agenda. Right now British warships are present in the Persian Gulf. This military presence becomes more significant in line with London's decision to follow Washington's policies of dispatching forces to the Persian Gulf. But now, with termination of the Iraqi-imposed war upon Iran and cessation of Baghdad's atrocities in the Persian Gulf waters, there is no justification for its continuation. One of the issues which can thus be noted in this visit, is the necessity of cleansing Persian Gulf waters of foreign forces.

Another issue which is discussed during the British foreign secretary's trip to the Persian Gulf littoral states is the follow up of the regional issues in the wake of termination of the imposed war. No doubt there will be no stable and lasting peace except through full implementation of UN Resolution No 598. The British Government, as a major side which worked to pass this resolution, can also strive to implement it, particularly because the GCC member countries favor changing the present situation to a lasting peace in the Persian Gulf.

Geoffrey Howe's interview in Kuwait demonstrated that the issue of securing peace in the Persian Gulf was one of the issues discussed with the Kuwaiti officials, which will be repeated in other host countries. Also in the interview given in Kuwait, Geoffrey Howe referred to the regional issues and demanded Israel's reciprocal action in the face of the positions announced by 'Arafat.

In view of the fact that the U.S. Government has entered into direct talks with the PLO, the British Government also declared its readiness to hold similar talks. The simultaneous visit to Riyadh by 'Arafat and his meeting with King Fahd could have taken place within the framework of these developments.

Although there has been no meeting between Geoffrey Howe and 'Arafat in Riyadh yet, nevertheless the British foreign secretary has announced that the British Government will hold talks with PLO officials in Tunisia through its minister of state for foreign affairs.

UK Says Hostages Block Improved Relations

LD0901172889 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 9, IRNA—Britain said the continued captivity of three of its nationals in Lebanon is a causing problems in the improvement of ties between Tehran and London and once again called on Iran to use its influence to secure their release.

It is "very important that we do seek the help of Iran in the release of our hostages in Lebanon," said British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave after a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday. "Iran has very much more influence (in Lebanon) than we do," Waldegrave said in an interview with IRNA.

Velayati meanwhile repeated Iran's pledge to do all she can in helping to free Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan but Britain also had to make an effort to find four Iranian hostages.

"Of course this is not our job," Velayati said, "but we try to ask those people having sympathy to our country if they could do something in Lebanon for the hostages release irrespective of their nationalities."

Velayati asked the Britain to help the release of four Iranian hostages held by Christian Phalange forces, including Charge d'Affaires Mohsen Musavi.

The British official said London "greatly welcomed" the release on Christmas of Nicholas Nicola after two years imprisonment in Iran for shooting at Iranian forces near the border with Afghanistan.

But until the British hostages were released and Roger Cooper, a Briton held in Iran on spying charges, went free "it will be rather difficult to get to the full womb of relations which I know both (countries) would like to develop," Waldegrave said.

"In our country we will have difficulty in explaining to people how we have gone to the full womb of relations where these difficulties still remain."

But he said in the meantime Britain hoped that trade, cultural exchanges and restoration of mutual respect "can go forward in the normal way."

Britain reopened its embassy in Tehran last month after a joint agreement to repair relations.

In the past year Britain and Iran have intensified their contacts particularly on the hostages issue. While promising to help to secure the freedom of British nationals in Lebanon Iran has in return requested Britain's cooperation to find the Iranian captives.

Church of England envoys travelled to Lebanon last summer in a bid to find the whereabouts of the Iranians who were taken hostage five years ago. But contacts with Christian political and religious leaders did not provide significant clues.

British politicians have expressed cautious optimism that betterment of diplomatic relations with Tehran would indirectly at least improve the chances for the release of the British hostages.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly said it does not have authority over any group in Lebanon.

Ambassador to PRC Briefs President Khamene'i

LD0501174289 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to China Ala'eddin Borujerdi informed President 'Ali Khamene'i of the latest developments in Tehran-Beijing ties, Thursday.

During the meeting, the president welcomed the Chinese leaders' keenness to expand ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

China Prepared To Buy Oil, Build Paper Plant

LD0801211789 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 8, IRNA—The Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen today announced his country's readiness to buy Iranian oil and to construct a paper plant in the Islamic Republic.

The announcement came today in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is here to participate in the Paris conference on chemical arms.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Paris international conference which began Saturday and will conclude its work on Wednesday.

The two foreign ministers urged the need for serious efforts towards preventing the use, production and stockpiling of the outlawed chemical weapons.

Positive Response Urged Toward New USSR Trends

LD1001001489 Tehran IRNA in English 2032 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT said in its editorial Monday that the Soviet officialdom seem to be gradually turning away form absolute athesim by authorizing religious practice in that country. It said even though the Soviets should have relaxed previous sanctions against religious faith solely in response to other considerations, the decision nonetheless deserves to be heeded and favorably responded to by the Islamic Republic.

The following is the text of the editorial.

"The Islamic Revolution in its foreign policies stands up for realistic outlooks of other governments. Obviously in this context realistic and realism is used not in their broad sense but rather in a more specialized sense, that is "the affinity of the outlooks or actions of those governments with the values of the Islamic Revolution and divine and human values." Naturally we must not feel unconcerned about developments in other world nations, especially where those developments are not opposed to divine and Islamic values, but rather somewhat aligned with those values.

"It is true that the irreligious communities despite their apparent difference form one and same nation because of similarities in their essence, but as related from the great imams of Muslims people differ in their capacity for religious faith, and likewise irreligion and irreligious people can be categorized at different levels: (A) irreligion and atheism in the form and to the level of enmity and hostility with religion and (B) "irreligion" in the manner of skepticism, and academic enquiry.

"Godlessness undisguised is one thing and godlessness under the guise of religion is quite another. And hence the reason why a hypocritic believer is worse than a truly godless person.

"A godless person who in the arena of academic contention and intellectual adventurism prefers exploration, a godless person who in his confrontation with facts and realities has acquired the basic preparation for learning from experiences and examples, a godless person who is heading for the world of truth and reality, although he may be still miles away from it, or even going astray is radically different from the godless person who is turning his back to the ultimate reality although we may profess adherence to religion in various terms and suggest the same by various means.

"The slogan of political freedom in the Soviet Union, as well as promotion of personal incentives in the conduct of economic activities in that country, and the liberty of worshipping and of practicing religious faith on a wider scale, although for the time being may be a mere slogan or declared solely with respect to the present-day propriety and other considerations, and although the decision may not have been made in absolutely full faith, it is nonetheless a development worthy of attention.

"If such official declarations should have brought the Soviets as little as three steps closer to the realities which we believe to have roots in the nature of man and in the divine rules of creation the proper response on our part would be to give positive answer to this move of theirs and uphold in whatsoever manner the trend for realism in that country."

Khamene'i Sends Message to Tanzania's Mwinyi

LD0701165589 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador Mohammad 'Ali Lavasani submitted a special message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his Tanzanian counterpart Ali Hassan Mwinyi in Dar es Salaam today.

At the meeting, talks were also held on issues of mutual interest between the two countries.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran

BK0301145789 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Minister for foreign affairs, Mr Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, arrived in Tehran yesterday [2 January] on an official visit to Iran. He was received at the airport by his Iranian counterpart, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Upadhyaya said that Nepal-Iran relations have always remained cordial. (?The Nepalese) foreign minister, Mr Upadhyaya, laid a wreath at the martyrs memorial this morning.

Meets With Khamene'i

LD0401173689 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i told visiting Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya Wednesday that Asian countries should strengthen their ties and exchange views on common regional issues.

Khamene'i said that at a time when big powers are seeking to increase their influence in various parts of the world it is of vital importance for Third World countries to deepen their friendship and unity in the confrontation with global arrogance's plots.

The Nepalese foreign minister who arrived here yesterday at the head of a delegation, called for strengthening of mutual ties.

Holds Talks With Musavi

LD0401203989 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA—In today's chaotic world, Third World countries require more than ever before to further familiarize with each other's culture and potentials, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi told Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya here today.

"We should bring peace to Asia" in the light of improved cultural, economic and political relations, he added.

In response, the Nepalese official announced his country's willingness to expand ties with Iran and briefed the premier on the results of the talks with his counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upadhyaya expressed hope continuation of the Islamic revolution would change Iran into a strong bastion of the Islamic world.

The Nepalese minister arrived here yesterday at the head of a delegation.

Musavi-Ardabili on Insurgents' Funds, Smugglers

NC0701212589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Unidentified Central News Unit correspondent's report from Kerman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Mr Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, spoke to the Kerman Central News Unit correspondent at the conclusion of his 3-day visit to Kerman Province and explained the outcome of his trip there. In answer to our correspondent's question on the results of his investigation into legal dossiers, he said:

On this visit, a number of financial dossiers as well as the dossiers of some insurgents who had been creating trouble and disturbances in the area lately were checked. Some of them affiliated with the former system and because of this affiliation had misappropriated and accumulated immense wealth through illicit means. Even now, the wealth is in their (?possession) and is being used for wrong purposes. They use part of the income from this wealth in Iran, and the remainder is sent abroad. The income accrued from this wealth is not in accordance with Islamic tenets. Some of these dossiers, which were relatively numerous, were reviewed over the past days. The accused were summoned, and we heard their defense at a principled trial. The required view was given after an assessment.

In answer to our correspondent's question regarding drastic action by our military and law enforcement bodies in Kerman Province recently when routing a drug smugglers caravan and eliminating judicial bottlenecks in the Province, the Supreme Court chief justice said: This was the main reason for my visit to Kerman Province. We are in the throes of reconstruction, and we need security—financial and job security—as well as social justice. In the initial stage, this security begins with action by the military and law enforcement forces and the judiciary's backing a categorical and suitable approach.

In answer to our correspondent's question on the law of the Expediency Discernment Council and the increase in the stringency of punishments for smugglers, Musavi-Ardabili said: I myself am a member of the Expediency Discernment Council. By emphasizing the implementation of this law from the (?beginning) of the month of Bahman [21 January-19 February] this year, we have immense hopes for the results we want to attain.

Supreme Judicial Council President Mr Musavi-Ardabili was seen off by the imam's deputy and Friday imam of Kerman; the governor-general and the deputies of the people of Jiroft, Kerman Bam, and (?Bafq) in the Islamic Majlis; the heads of the Ministry of Justice and the revolution courts; and the public prosecutor, some clergymen, and executive officials when he left Kerman for Tehran.

109 Drug Traffickers Arrested in Khorasan

LD0801105989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Mashad, in the implementation of the Val-'Adiyat plan [plan to fight narcotics smugglers], 109 distributors of narcotics have been arrested by the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Khorasan Province, and a considerable quantity of narcotics and equipment for the use of those narcotics have been discovered and seized.

Border Villages To Be Moved 'Deep' Into Country

LD0901181789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Excerpts] During the seminar on practical possibilities to implement the anti-narcotics law, the interior minister and the state prosecutor general, while stressing that in the campaign against drug traffickers and merchants of death, the envisaged punishments are legal and Islamic, called upon the people to offer their all-embracing support to the anti-narcotics headquarters, judges, and security forces in order to eradicate the problem of addiction. [passage omitted]

In the seminar's closing session the interior minister referred to addiction as a complicated problem, created through the plans and conspiracies of enemies of the Islamic revolution and the country's independence. He said: For an all-out confrontation against this problem the executive and judicial authorities should be placed on full alert and should mobilize their resources. Mohtashemi added: The struggle against addiction is much harder than face-to-face combat with an enemy, because in a military confrontation, governments fight in a confined area on the front; whereas the problem of narcotics is not confined to a particular place: It penetrates the cities, villages, and people's houses, and has wide dimensions.

He went on: Like our political and economic dependence [on foreign powers] and like the enemy's military aggression which threatens the country's independence, addiction too harms the country and its independence to the same extent.

The interior minister added: Only through the judicial and security system can the problem of addiction be solved, and to achieve success in the struggle against narcotics there should be a general and all-embracing movement. Meeting the legitimate needs of youth is another way of preventing the spread of addiction. Therefore, we must, through a long-term and logical planning, use all our capabilities in the confrontation against addictions and narcotics.

During 2-day's work this seminar, while hearing the views of the country's judicial and executive officials, set up six commissions to find ways to eradicate narcotics: Ways To Enforce Border Control; Safeguarding Security in the Kevir; the Judicial Commission; the Health and Treatment Commission; the Commission for the Establishment of Work Camps, and the Publicity Commission. Regarding the work of these commissions, the head of the secretariat of the anti-narcotics headquarters said:

These commissions were set up and held meetings during this seminar. We had very positive results from the regulations approved by these commissions. For instance, the Judicial Commission decided that when a death sentence is issued by this commission it will not be subject to an appeal, after the endorsement of the State Supreme Court and the honorable state prosecutor general.

In addition to the regulations approved by the Judicial Commission, the borders' issue commission decided that the villages along the border strip will be transferred deep inside our country after investigation and submission of the necessary plan.

Cabinet Appoints Governor of Lorestan Province

LD0401222189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The cabinet met this morning. After discussing the most important domestic and foreign news, they talked about the nature of the country's first 5-year economic and social plan. The ministers made some decisions.

In the continuation of this meeting, the interior minister submitted a report about the steps taken toward the implementation of the law on parties.

According to the same report, in today's cabinet meeting Mr Ahmad Entesari was appointed governor general of Lorestan Province.

18 Political Groups Seek Formal Recognition

LD0901132989 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Eighteen groups have applied for formal recognition by the Interior Ministry since the law on political parties went into effect on 31 December.

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi in an interview published Monday said the groups included the Association for the Defence of Freedom, the Mojahedin-e Khalq movement, and JAMA whose leader Dr Kazem Sami was murdered last November.

The freedom movement, led by former prime minister Mehdi Bazargan had not yet applied but he is a member of the Association for the Defence of Freedom.

The minister provided the names of the groups—"some of them are new while others were politically active earlier"—in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

Deputy interior minister in charge of political affairs, Dr Mohammad Sadr was also present.

Applications would be studied by a committee of five, including two Majlis deputies, and representatives from the Interior Ministry, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Supreme Judicial Council.

JAMA, which stands for Jonbegh-e Enqelab-e Mardom-e Iran (Revolutionary Movement of the People of Iran) was formed in secret in the late 60's by Dr Sami to fight the monarchy.

Iran's first health minister after the Islamic revolution and later Majlis deputy and presidential candidate, Sami died on 25 November after being stabbed by a former employee.

The paper said Dr 'Ali Shari'at Madari and Dr 'Ali Eslami, ministers of higher education and the PTT after the revolution were leading members of JAMA but it was not known which of them applied for a permit.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq movement is led by Lotfollah Meysami, one of the original members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization also formed in the late 60's that carried out an armed struggle against the shah's regime.

Meysami lost his sight in a premature bomb explosion and was arrested by the SAVAK secret police in the early 70's. After 1979 he broke away from the MKO later known as the munafiqeen (hypocites) following their campaign of terror that began in 1981.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq movement has been publishing a periodical newspaper, RAH-E MOJAHED, for several years.

TEHRAN TIMES named only two other groups among the applicants: The Muslim Women Association and the Association of Graduates from India.

In a separate interview with SOROUSH magazine, Dr Sadr said he was hopeful on the future of political freedoms but warned that the resumption of the war with Iraq or "abuses" by the parties could force the government to "confront" them.

"We will deal firmly according to the law just as we are determined to implement the law on parties," he said. "We believe in freedom (but) we are also firm in dealing with violations committed by the parties and groups."

Prime Minister's Adviser on Reconstruction

LD0701203489 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Ilam, Jan. 7, IRNA—A credit of about rls. 54 billion (over dlrs. 782 millions) will be used for reconstruction projects and renovation of war-damaged regions by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20).

Announcing the above here Saturday, adviser to prime minister for the war-stricken provinces Mr. Kiavash said that 50 per cent of the alloted credit will be spent for reconstruction of residential and commercial units of damaged cities, another 30 per cent for reconstruction of rural civilian areas, and 20 per cent for supplying public utility facilities damaged in the course of the imposed war.

Some rls. 45 billion of the total rls. 54.2 billion of credit is to be spent for renovation of residential, commercial, educational, cultural, economic, and sports units as well as public utility facilities of the bombarded cities, said the official. Some rls. one billion will be alloted for loans to citizens who have sustained damage in the war, he added.

He said some rls. 8.2 billion has been alloted to reconstruction and renovation of government-owned and other factories.

Kiavash added that preliminary activities for reconstruction of war-damaged villages in Khuzestan, Ilam, and Bakhtaran Provinces have started.

SAIRI To Announce New 'Resistance Charter'

LD0401221589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] A new resistance charter, which will involve the unity of all struggling and resistant Iraqi forces, will soon be announced by the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI]. One of the members of the SAIRI Central Committee today in an interview with local and foreign reporters announced that the new charter will include all strugglers—Muslims and non-Muslims—and Iraqi Kurds, and the strugglers would have offices in most of the countries in which they reside.

In reply to a reporter who asked about the results of the investigations on the murder of martyr Seyyed Mehdi Hakim, he said: The identity of the murderer of martyr Seyyed Mehdi Hakim has been discovered by the Sudanese Government but has not yet been publicly announced. Quoting the Sudanese cultural minister, he said that this crime was committed by agents of the Iraqi Embassy and the assassin, who is an ordinary employee of the Iraqi Embassy, fled to Baghdad after committing the crime.

In connection with the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Turkey, the SAIRI Central Committee member said: SAIRI has sent a delegation to follow up and study the needs of the Kurdish refugees and homeless. Also, a delegation has been sent to Geneva to deliver a comprehensive report to the UN Committee for Refugee Affairs, and we are about to collect various types of assistance and funds to help the Iraqi Kurds. Regarding the participation of SAIRI representatives in the international chemical weapons conference in Paris, he said: SAIRI will have an active presence at that conference and will tell the world about Iraq's crime of genocide against the Kurdish nation.

SAIRI Denounces U.S. 'Aggression' on Libya

LD0701165189 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—Washington's aggression against Libya is a "blatant aggression" against all Muslim countries, said the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) today.

Lashing out at U.S. hypocrisy vis-a-vis chemical arms, the SAIRI statement said "if Washington is honest in its claims, why did it remain silent during the Baghdad regime's repeated deployment of toxic gases against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraqi Kurds."

"Why the U.S. never objects to production of chemical weapons at the big plants of Samarra' and 'Ukashat in Iraq," asked the statement and revealed that America in fact had supported and encouraged the Iraqi regime to deploy the internationally-banned substances.

Last Wednesday, U.S. fighters downed two Libyan MiG-23s over the international waters of the Mediterranean after weeks of propaganda tirade alleging that Libya was building chemical arms factories.

SAIRI also called for a united stand against mounting U.S. crimes, and urged the Muslim ummah to condemn the Baghdad regime for its widescale use of "this deadly weapon against Iraqi Muslims."

In one of the most terrible crimes in contemporery history, Iraqi warplanes chemically bombarded Halabjah (N.E. Iraq) on 18 March 1988, martyring over 5,000 Kurdish civilians and maiming more than 7,000 others.

Addition to Delegation, Gorbachev Meeting

Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 4 January broadcast a 3-minute report on the meeting in Moscow of Larijani and Amoli with Mikhail Gorbachev. The Tehran Domestic version has been compared with the Tehran Television version published in the 5 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 40 and 41 under the headline "Delegation Meets Gorbachev" and found to be identical, with the following addition:

Page 41, column one, 2d paragraph, last sentence from end make read: ...all possible fields.

[new graf] Also present at this meeting were Mr Yakovlev, member of the CPSU Second Commission on Foreign Policy [title as heard]; Mr Heyrani-Nobari, Iran's ambassador to Moscow; and Mr Bessmertnykh, deputy Soviet foreign minister [title as heard]. The special delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran was seen off by the secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the deputy Soviet foreign minister at 1500, when they left Moscow for Tehran... (supplying additional material)

Maldives

President Gayoom Appoints Larger Cabinet

BK0701074089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 7 (AFP)—President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives has appointed a larger cabinet with minor changes, it was announced here Saturday.

The Maldivian High Commission (embassy) here said Mr. Gayoom had retained the key defence and finance portfolios.

Mr. Gayoom survived a bloody coup attempt on November 3, just eight days before his inauguration for a third five-year term as head of state of the Indian Ocean atoll nation.

The 51-year-old Maldivian president had his first meeting with the cabinet Friday immediately after swearing them in.

No one has been dropped from the previous cabinet, but two new faces were introduced to the new ministries of justice and home affairs and sports, a High Commission spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The full list is:

Abdulla Hameed:	Speaker of the Citizen's Majlis (Parliament)
Abdul Sattar Moosa Didi:	Health and welfare.
Fathulla Jameel:	Foreign affairs.
Zahir Hussain:	Education.
Abdulla Hameed:	Atoll administration.
Ilyas Ibrahim:	Trade and industries.
Ahmed Mujthaba:	Tourism.
Abdulla Jameel:	Fisheries and agriculture.
Umar Zahir:	Home affairs and sports.
Ahmed Zaki:	Attorney general.
Abbas Ibrahim:	Transport and shipping.
Mohamed Rasheed Ibrahim:	Justice.
Abdulla Kamaaluddeen:	Public works and labour.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Accepts Invitation To Visit Iran

BK3112120588 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr M.M. Musavi, called on the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. During the meeting the ambassador extended an invitation to the president on behalf of President 'Ali Khamene'i to visit Iran.

Accepting the invitation, the president expressed the hope to pay an early visit to the brotherly Muslim country.

They also reviewed relations between the two countries. The ambassador expressed the desire of the Iranian leadership to forge still closer economic relations between the two countries.

Ishaq Khan Receives Message From Iraq's Saddam

BK0201082889 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The special envoy of the Iraqi president called on President Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this morning and delivered a special message from Mr Saddam Husayn.

During the meeting the president reiterated Pakistan's desire to further develop the friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries. The special envoy, Mr Riyad al-Qaysi, also conveyed warm greetings of President Saddam and said the government and people of Iraq were eager to further expand relations with Pakistan in all fields.

Bhutto Discusses Relations With India

BK0301162289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said it is our endeavor for neighboring countries to cooperate with each other and solve their problems. She was talking to newsmen at the Municipal Stadium in Larkana this evening. She said in this spirit three agreements have been signed by Pakistan and India. She said that the prime minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had invited her to visit India, and he has also been invited to visit Pakistan. During these visits, both sides will hold talks on mutual problems.

Concerning the SAARC conference, the prime minister said it was a multilateral conference, while relations between Pakistan and India [are] based on multilateral as well as bilateral levels.

Spokesman Denies Bhutto-Gandhi 'Secret Pact'

BK0901154389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has described as baseless the report that Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto remained silent on the Kashmir issue during her recent talks with the Indian prime minister. The spokesman said that apart from international, regional, and bilateral matters, the Jammu and Kashmir issue also came up for discussion during the talks. The spokesman said that the prime minister has already clarified Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue and stated that under the Simla Agreement, the issue is pending and still unresolved.

The spokesman said that as a result of the meeting between the two prime ministers, three agreements have been signed, which have come to the notice of the general public.

He said that there is no truth in the allegation made by certain political circles that there was a secret pact as well.

Commentary on 'Success' of Gandhi-Bhutto Meeting

BK0201042689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] After a lapse of 16 years, three formal agreements have been signed between India and Pakistan. The occasion for it was provided by the fourth SAARC summit held in Islamabad last week. The leaders of India and Pakistan availed themselves of the opportunity and held a round of bilateral summit talks, which culminated in the finalization of accords on cultural cooperation, avoidance of the double taxation on income derived from international air transport, and, most importantly, on not attacking each other's nuclear facilities.

Besides discussing the subjects related to the agreements, the Pakistani and Indian leaders held wide-ranging talks in a congenial atmosphere which undoubtedly contributed to the success of their summit-level talks. This, according to the Indian prime minister, has set in motion the process of normalization of relations between the countries. He hoped that this would continue and move faster.

Pakistan's prime minister remarked that by holding the summit talks, an important and significant step has been taken to improve bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. Similarly, on the conclusion of the accords, both the leaders made favorable observations. Ms Benazir Bhutto described the development as an initiative for peace, while Mr Rajiv Gandhi called it a good start.

Ever since the emergence of India and Pakistan as independent nations in 1947, the relations between the two neighbors have remained strained and uneasy. Besides specific outstanding issues between them—such as those of Kashmir and Siachen, the nuclear programs of the two countries, and terrorism—a general climate of mutual mistrust and lack of confidence has existed. It would be too simplistic to believe that all the outstanding problems could be resolved in one round of talks or the atmosphere that has remained vitiated for such a long period could improve overnight.

In the just concluded summit talks, therefore, the approach of the two sides, according to Ms Benazir Bhutto, was to tackle simpler problems first. This indeed is what pragmatism demands. The discussion on seemingly more intractable questions could take place after the issues that are less complex have been satisfactorily resolved and some confidence building measures adopted.

The SAARC association of seven states provides a forum for promotion of better understanding among its member states. The Islamabad Declaration of the SAARC summit has appreciated the superpowers' efforts to resolve protracted regional disputes and conflicts, and also of the relaxation of global tension. Pakistan and India are thus committed to provide the same (?hope) with regard to their bilateral relations. The success of the Pakistan-India summit seems to underscore the recognition of this fact by their present leaderships. This augurs well for the future of the relations between the two countries, which should continue improving in the days ahead.

Editorial Views Gandhi Visit to PRC

BK0401142589 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Dec 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Mr Gandhi's China Visit"]

[Text] The Indian Prime Minister has described his visit to Beijing as a turning point in his country's relations with China. Coming after more than two-and-a-half decades of cold war and the absence of cordial ties between the two neighbours, the recent demonstration of congeniality represents a significant development. This was the first summit level contact between the trans-Himalayan neighbours after 1960 when Mr Zhou Enlai had visited India.

Three accords were signed in Beijing on Thurday [22 December]. One was a civil aviation treaty which will enable India and China to establish air links. The others were a science and technology accord and a cultural agreement which will help promote closer understanding between the two sides by encouraging exchange of delegations and contacts between their scientific communities. Seen against the backdrop of their growing trade relations, these agreements should contribute to a normalisation of ties between India and China.

This is a development of no mean significance in view of the fact that the Sino-Indian border dispute remains unresolved. This had led to a war in 1962 and has been a major factor in vitiating ties between them. Since 1981 attempts to normalise relations had been frustrated by New Delhi's insistence that the border issue be treated as a priority matter. Evidently there has been a change in the Indian stance.

Although there has been no agreement on the disputed territories, India and China have now decided to set aside their boundary differences and smooth out relations in other fields. This is a sensible approach. It will not only defuse tension in the region. The positive climate created by agreements on economic, cultural and other matters could eventually prove to be conducive to a settlement of the border dispute.

Especially now that there is a tacit understanding between the two sides on maintaining the status quo on the borders, there is no justification for allowing the stalemate in border negotiations to block normalisation of relations in other spheres.

The Sino-Indian detente augurs well for peace and security in Asia. Comprising over a third of the world population, these two countries have the potential of destabilising the continent should they choose to remain locked in confrontation with each other. Understanding between them, especially at a time when Gorbachev's Russia has launched a peace offensive in the Asia-Pacific region, would exert a favourable impact on international relations in the region.

For Pakistan this has fundamental implications. Since the sixties a most vital element in Islamabad's foreign policy has been its close relations with China which has strengthened Pakistan's position in the midst of a none-too-favourable security environment in the region. Although a change in China's equations with India and the USSR should not technically affect Sino-Pakistan friendship, the changing situation calls for a suitable response from Pakistan's policy-makers.

There is need for us to keep under review our own ties with India and the Soviet Union so that our thinking does not suffer from petrifaction when a far-reaching transformation is under way in the political climate in Asia. Mr Rajiv Gandhi's forthcoming visit to Islamabad for the SAARC Summit should provide a new opening for Pakistan to play an appropriate role in the evolving pattern of international politics in Asia.

Soviet Ambassador Speaks on Trade Ties

BK1001040689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Speaking at a dinner in Karachi last night, the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Viktor P. Yakunin, said solid efforts are needed to promote commercial and economic relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. He said the business communities of both countries can play a useful role in this regard.

Bhutto Presides Over Federal Cabinet Meeting

BK0901160689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] A federal cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto was held in Rawalpindi today. The prime minister said that the Pakistan People's Party government is committed to upholding the rule of law in the country and to protecting the life and property of all citizens, irrespective of their religion, caste, and political affiliation.

In this context, the Sind government has been advised to conduct appropriate investigations into a recent shooting incident near the residence of a political leader in Karachi.

The prime minister directed that all government and semigovernment, autonomous and semiautonomous institutions of provincial and federal governments and local bodies should refrain from being involved, either directly or indirectly, in the coming by-elections, as the relevant laws do not permit this. It was stressed that government funds, resources, and vehicles should not be used for political purposes.

The prime minister also directed that in view of the complete freedom granted to the press by her government, the policy of using government advertisements to influence newspapers should be immediately stopped. She called for a change in the policy to bring it into conformity with the freedom granted to the press.

The prime minister said that every possible step should be taken to end poppy cultivation in Pakistan. A high-level committee has been formed to find ways and means to achieve this objective and it will submit its report as soon as possible.

The cabinet also ratified the bilateral tourism agreement between Pakistan and the PRC.

Benazir Bhutto Leaves for Saudi Arabia 10 Jan

BK1001065689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad for Saudi Arabia to perform minor pilgrimage [umrah]. She is accompanied by a delegation of religious scholars and workers who struggled for the restoration of democracy for 11 and ½ years. Those accompanying the prime minister include NWFP Governor Amir Gulistan Janjua, Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, and Housing and Construction Minister Jahangir Badar.

They were seen off at the airport by federal ministers, advisors, ministers of state, Parliament members, the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Pakistan, and senior officials.

Court Reserves Opinion on Baluchistan Case

BK0801162689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The Supreme Court today reserved its advisory opinion on the presidential reference pertaining to the authorization of expenditure out of the consolidated fund of the Baluchistan government following dissolution of the provincial assembly last month. It extended operation of the interim order passed by it last month regarding authentication of the budget and the incurring of expenditure by the Baluchistan government till the announcement of its opinion.

The court also disposed of the petition for leave to appeal challenging the order of the Baluchistan High Court dismissing a petition regarding dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly. It observed that they had already given their wider opinion about the aggrieved party in their judgement of Ms Benazir Bhutto versus Federation of Pakistan making it clear that a citizen can challenge the non-observance of the constitutional provisions by the executive. Accordingly, the court remanded back the case to the Baluchistan High Court for disposal on merit.

The Supreme Court also disposed of a similar petition requesting grant of an injunction against the announcement of the election schedule in Baluchistan following dissolution of the provincial assembly. The court did not allow the request of the petitioner that the election commission be asked not to announce the election schedule for provincial assembly elections pending a decision on the petition. The petition was dismissed by the court as withdrawn.

Sri Lanka

2d Indian Unit Ready To Depart; LTTE Ambush

BK0801083789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The second battalion of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] will leave Sri Lanka tomorrow [as heard]. The first battalion has already been withdrawn. The announcement regarding the withdrawal of the two battalions was made last Sunday [1 January] following further progress in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

Meanwhile, three Sri Lankan army personnel and a driver of a military vehicle were killed last night when they were ambushed by suspected LTTE men 24 km north of Padaviya in the northern district of Vavuniya. Three army personnel were also injured in the attack.

Another Battalion Departs

BK0901124789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Another battalion of the Peacekeeping Force left Sri Lanka this afternoon in an Indian ship from the Kankesanturai harbor. This is the second battalion to be withdrawn from the island this month. The withdrawal follows further progress in the implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement.

Editorial Views Gandhi Rapprochement With PRC

BK0901144389 Colombo SUN in English 27 Dec 88 p 5

[Editorial: "End to the Asian Cold War"]

[Text] Last week a new Asian "glasnost" was set in motion by the leaders of the most populous nations in the world, India and China.

Rajiv Gandhi made a historic journey to Beijing, thus becoming the first Indian leader to do so in thirty-four years. Once again the Indian and Chinese leaders upheld the old oriental formula for peaceful co-existence as mooted by Jawaharlal Nehru and Chou En Lai. Over decades ago in Bandung they pledged to pursue the five principles of "Panchaseela" in fostering peace and stability in Asia.

But things did not work out well for Asia and peace. India and China which waged a bitter battle in the early sixties got bogged down in a serious border dispute which continues to bedevil their relations.

A high level of militarisation particularly along their mutual borders and the search for greater nuclear capability by the two sides have indeed created a serious threat to peace in Asia.

Now the two sides are making a genuine effort to defuse the crisis as well as thaw the ice between them thus giving peace a chance.

Premier Gandhi after the historic talks confirmed that the efforts taken by him and the Chinese leaders to resolve the thorny border dispute have been positive. These must be pursued further if a lasting solution is to be achieved. Years of bilateral negotiations by respective officials failed to produce an all important breakthrough.

Yet Gandhi seems optimistic. So are the Chinese. And if these two gigantic arch rivals could come to terms with their thorniest issue, the political climate in Asia is likely to change for the better.

Interestingly the upcoming Gandhi-Bhutto encounter in Islamabad next week will be influenced by his recent discussions in China which has very good relations with Pakistan.

Judging by recent developments in Pakistan, improvement in bilateral relations with India is well on the cards. The new China factor in their own ties will be very significant in this respect.

The emergent China-India-Pakistan triangular relationship could be very decisive for South Asia in particular. Most of its diplomatic woes have had their roots in the mutual distrust that exists among these three countries.

Adding a new dimension to the new hope is the Soviet pullout of Afghanistan which would be completed shortly.

The projected Sino-Soviet summit in 1989 will further reduce the tensions and the cold war which used to plague Asia. The visit of the Indian Premier last week is also significantly relevant to this new axis.

Gandhi may have set a more conciliatory atmosphere in China for the upcoming visit of Mikhail Gorbachev. It was only a month ago that the Indian leader met with Gorbachev in Delhi.

Gandhi who hitherto concentrated his diplomatic activity as a regional "overlord" is now seeking to play a bigger role in defusing the cold war in Asia by tackling the giants like China.

Whether he will succeed in this new venture at the tail end of the year of the dragon only time will tell.